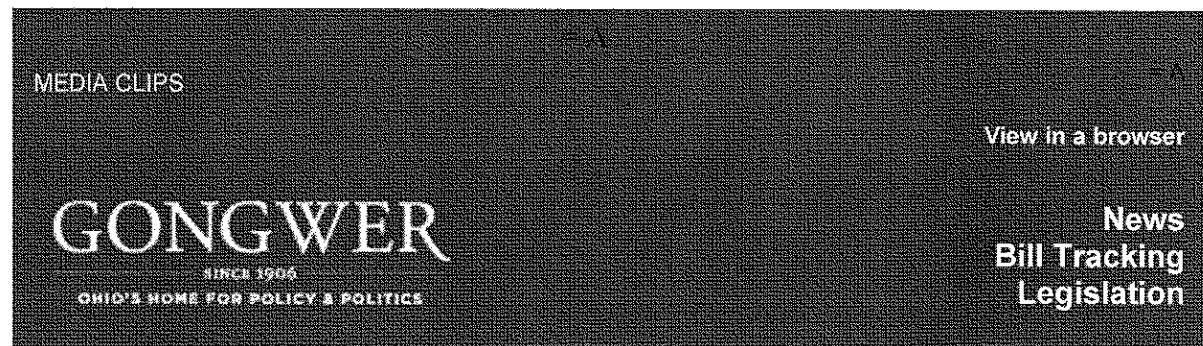


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NEWS

Ohio Supreme Court sides with FirstEnergy in customer refund ruling
(Akron Beacon Journal, 1/25/2018)

GOP gov race: No one wants Kasich's endorsement (Cincinnati Enquirer,
1/25/2018)

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In Ohio, lives altered a year into Trump (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/25/2018)

Ohio PAC supporting Ohio women candidates raises \$750,000 (Cleveland
Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Powerful opioids are easily sold through the Internet and shipped in the mail, investigation finds (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Talk it out: Should Ohio become a 'right to work' state? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/25/2018)

Campaign cash: Who got how much from ECOT (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Cordray wants to bring fight for consumers to Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Kasich disputes Taylor's assertion they haven't talked in a year (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

No redistricting vote without citizens coalition support, Senate president says (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio lawmakers going after pharmacy benefit managers (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

State lawmakers vote to regulate "e-bikes" (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

Ohio's tobacco prevention efforts get mostly Fs (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Riding a skateboard while holding a car could become illegal in Ohio (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

State considers punishing cities that use traffic, red-light cameras (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

Tool will allow the public to follow the money in Ohio politics (Dayton Daily News, 1/25/2018)

High court: State's FirstEnergy refund order was improper (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

Vote delayed on GOP remap plan (Toledo Blade, 1/25/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: CHIP breaks free from D.C. gridlock (Canton Repository, 1/25/2018)

Editorial: Ohioans want real redistricting reform (Columbus Dispatch, 1/25/2018)

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Ohio Health Value Review

A quarterly update on population health and healthcare spending in Ohio

The Ohio Health Value Review is a quarterly electronic update from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio designed to strengthen connections between public health and healthcare partners in Ohio and highlight opportunities for different sectors to work together to improve health value in our state. If you have questions about the newsletter or have suggested tools or resources you would like to see included in future editions, please [contact Nick Wiseloge](#), HPIO's Vice President of Strategic Communications.

To reduce infant mortality, policymakers must address social determinants

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio's **2017 Health Value Dashboard** identified infant mortality as one of Ohio's greatest health challenges. New data released just after the start of the new year found that the state still has a great deal of work to do to address the issue, particularly the significant racial disparities faced by Ohioans.

Infant mortality is viewed as a "tip of the iceberg" health issue because it serves as an indicator of the overall health and wellbeing of a state. Infant deaths signal the presence of other community problems just below the surface, such as poor child health, racism and families struggling to make ends meet. Policies that address these root causes of infant mortality have the added benefit of also addressing other health challenges the state faces, such as depression, addiction and food insecurity. Ohio's black infant mortality rate of 13.46 deaths for every 1,000 live births from 2013 to 2015 was worse than all states except Wisconsin, according to **data released earlier this month by the National Center for Health Statistics**. Ohio's black infant mortality rate is nearly triple the state's infant mortality rate of 5.76 for babies born to white mothers during the same period.

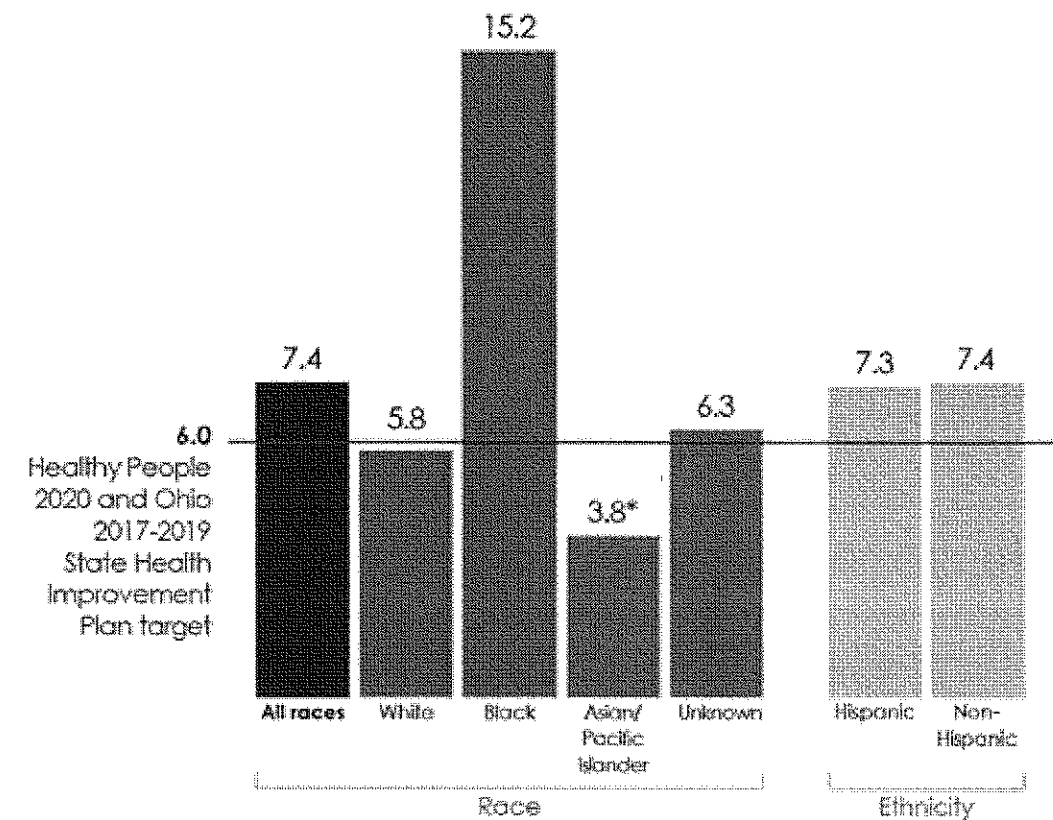
Organizations throughout Ohio have worked tirelessly in recent years to address the state's disturbingly high infant mortality rate, with most of the energy focused on initiatives that tackle the problem through improved medical care. However, we continue to see the state's infant mortality rate moving in the wrong direction.

Ohio's struggle to make progress suggests that the solution to improving Ohio's performance may need to come from addressing the root causes of infant mortality, factors outside of the healthcare system. Researchers estimate that of the modifiable factors that impact overall health, 20 percent are attributed to clinical care (e.g., healthcare access and quality) and 30 percent to health-related behaviors. The remaining 50 percent are attributed to the social, economic and physical environment. Programs and policies impacting these social and economic factors, such as housing, transportation, education and employment, hold untapped promise for increasing the number of Ohio babies who survive past their first birthday and improving the health of all Ohioans.

[Read more](#)

Health value graphic

The graphic below, from the HPIO report **A New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity**, shows the Ohio infant mortality rate by race and ethnicity for 2016. The bars represent the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.



* Rate based on fewer than 20 infant deaths and should be interpreted with caution.
Source: 2016 Ohio Infant Mortality Data: General Findings, Ohio Department of Health

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Health value resources

The 2017 *Health Value Dashboard* found that Ohio ranks 46 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia on health value, landing in the bottom quartile. This means that Ohioans are living less healthy lives and we spend more on health care than

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[Read more](#)



Health value graphic

people in most other states. The tools below can be used to help improve health value in Ohio.

Population health and healthcare spending

- State of Ohio Health Facts - Ohio Department of Health
- State Population Health Strategies that Make a Difference - Milbank Memorial Fund
- High-Deductible Health Plans Reduce Healthcare Cost and Utilization, Including Use of Needed Preventive Services - Health Affairs
- 2016 Health Care Cost and Utilization Report - Health Care Cost Institute
- Mortality in the United States, 2016 - National Center for Health Statistics
- Federal Spending Priorities Shifted Toward Health Over Past Decade - Pew Charitable Trust

Social and economic environment

- Building Blocks for Addressing Social Determinants of Health - JAMA Forum
- Connections between education and health No. 3: The importance of early learning - HPIO
- It takes a community: Community schools provide opportunities for all - Phi Delta Kappan
- Using Community Partnerships to Integrate Health and Social Services for High-Need, High-Cost Patients - Commonwealth Fund

Physical environment

- Evaluation of Housing for Health Permanent Supportive Housing Program - Rand Corporation
- Listening to Low-Income Patients: Where We Live Matters to Our Health - Commonwealth Fund
- Unstable Housing and Caregiver and Child Health in Renter Families - Pediatrics
- Association of Short-term Exposure to Air Pollution With Mortality in Older Adults - JAMA
- Unstable Housing and Diabetes-Related Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalization: A Nationally Representative Study of Safety-Net Clinic Patients - American Diabetes Association

Access to care

- **State-Level Trends in Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance, 2012-2016: Chartbook and State Fact Sheets** - State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)
- **Private Health Insurance Basics 2017 Update: Current policy issues impacting the individual health insurance market in Ohio** - HPIO
- **Comparing the Affordable Care Act's Financial Impact on Safety-Net Hospitals in States That Expanded Medicaid and Those That Did Not** - Commonwealth Fund

Healthcare system

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- **Hospital Community Benefit Scorecard** - Ohio Department of Health
- **Price Transparency and Physician Quality Report Card 2017** - Altarum's Center for Payment Innovation and Catalyst for Payment Reform
- **Community Benefit Spending By Tax-Exempt Hospitals Changed Little After ACA** - Health Affairs
- **Doctors Feel Excluded from Health Care Value Efforts** - Harvard Business Review
- **2017 Hospital Safety Grade** - Leapfrog

Public health and prevention

- **Community Health Improvement Plans** - Ohio Department of Health
- **Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes** - The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine
- **Evaluating Community-Based Health Improvement Programs** - Health Affairs
- **What the World Can Learn from Chile's Obesity-Control Strategies** - Rand Corporation

Health equity

- **Health Departments with a Commitment to Health Equity: A More Skilled Workforce and Higher-Quality Collaborations** - Health Affairs
- **Geographical Health Priority Areas For Older Americans** - Health Affairs

State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) priority topics

The **2017-2019 SHIP**, facilitated by HPIO under contract with the Ohio Department of Health, lays out specific steps to achieve measurable improvements on key priorities. Below are resources that address those priority areas.

Mental health and addiction

- **Addiction Overview and Project Description** - HPIO Addiction Evidence Project
- **Evidence resource page: Prevention, treatment and recovery** - HPIO Addiction Evidence Project
- **The Opioid Epidemic's Impact on Children Services in Ohio** - Public Children Services Association of Ohio
- **Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 1999-2016** - National Center for Health Statistics
- **To Combat the Opioid Epidemic, We Must Be Honest About All Its Causes** - Harvard Business Review
- **Marijuana Buyers in the United States, 2010-2014** - Rand Corporation
- **Teenage cannabis, cigarette use may heighten risk for later psychosis** - Psychiatric Annals

Chronic disease

- **Chronic disease care: Family helpers play key roles, but feel left out by providers** - University of Michigan via Medical Xpress
- **Association of Exposure to Communities With Higher Ratios of Obesity with Increased Body Mass Index and Risk of Overweight and Obesity Among Parents and Children** - JAMA Pediatrics
- **America Experiences More Pain Than Other Countries** - The Atlantic

Maternal and infant health

- **A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity: Policy recommendations to improve housing, transportation, education and employment** - HPIO report to the Legislative Service Commission
- **An Overview of State Funding Addressing Maternal and Infant Health** - Center for Community Solutions
- **Vital Signs: Trends and Disparities in Infant Safe Sleep Practices - United States, 2009-2015** - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Child Mortality In The US And 19 OECD Comparator Nations: A 50-Year Time-Trend Analysis** - Health Affairs

Upcoming events

**Feb. 27 -- HPIO forum: Addressing the social drivers of healthy aging:
Policy options to improve health and impact spending growth**

As Ohio's population continues to age, policymakers are faced with unique challenges. This forum, a follow-up to a popular 2016 HPIO forum, will explore the aging policy landscape, supports for healthy aging, public and private payment models and social determinants of health for aging populations.

**March 14-16 -- Association for Community Health Improvement
National Conference in Atlanta, GA**

**May 22-24-- National Network of Public Health Institutes Annual
Conference and Public Health Workforce Forum in New Orleans, LA**

**June 11-12-- Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health
Authorities 9th Annual Opiate Conference in Columbus**

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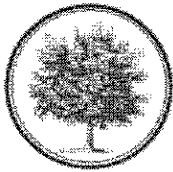


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January 30, 2018

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**Buckeye's Greg Lawson: Past Time to End Ohio's
Byzantine Licensing Requirements**

Columbus, OH -- Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement on the need for occupational licensing reform in Ohio. The statement was issued as the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee heard testimony on House Bill 289.

"Every license requirement raises a red-tape hurdle for workers to clear before earning a living or starting a new career. Every hour of unpaid training needed to satisfy bureaucratic

requirements is an hour not spent earning tips, serving a customer, or opening a business. Those are hours of lost productivity, hours of opportunity that young, low-income workers sorely need, but that the state continues to take for itself.

"This policy proposal starts an important conversation about how to rein in the red tape. Requiring policymakers to use the least restrictive regulation when it finds it necessary to displace competition is wise policy. And establishing a process that empowers legislative panels to weed through Ohio's overgrown thicket of licensing boards and uproot bureaucratic thistles will allow Ohioans to benefit from the fruits of their labor.

"Ohioans should not have to ask the state for permission to earn a living, and it is past time to end Ohio's byzantine licensing requirements."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



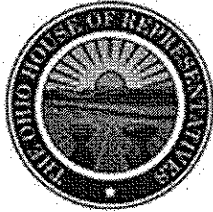
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Subject: GOP Week in Review 1/22/18 – 1/28/18



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

1/22/18 – 1/28/18

Farm and Dairy: Ohio Cattlemen's Association honors family farms

Ohio Rep. Brian Hill received the association's Industry Service Award. Hill, a longtime association member, raises beef cattle on his family farm in Muskingum County, and is currently serving his third term in the Ohio House of Representatives, after serving as a county commissioner for more than six years. ... "It's easy to go to Columbus to fight on your behalf," Hill told the cattlemen Saturday night.

Columbus Dispatch: State lawmakers vote to regulate 'e-bikes'

House Bill 250, introduced by Rep. Tom Brinkman, a Cincinnati-area Republican, would regulate electric bicycles, also called e-bikes, and hold them to many of the same standards as normal bicycles. ... "This new technology in e-bikes will allow more Ohioans to use our wonderful trail network, longer and later in life," Brinkman said.

Dayton Daily News: New bill calls for more transparency in drug prices

"Action is needed to address the rising prescription drug prices to protect Ohio consumers," said state Rep. Scott Lipps, R-Franklin, one of the sponsors of House Bill 479. "Prescription drug pricing in its supply chain is complex and broke and needs to be scrutinized."

Alliance Review: State Rep. Christina Hagan shows support for emergency personnel

"I am honored to discuss legislative matters impacting our community leaders and safety services, and to work toward solutions with the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association," said Hagan. "I'm thankful for the daily sacrifices of all our Ohio firefighters and first responders."

WHAM: Mom pushes for change after 3 year old denied heart transplant due to Down syndrome

Miamisburg Representative Niraj Antani (R-District 42) is a primary sponsor of the bill and said, "They're told that they won't be able to follow the post operation regimen, their body won't be able to handle it, or that it's implied that their life is less worthy and that's wrong."

Sandusky Register: State bill aims to plug orphan wells

"As the representative of a district that is very concerned with the harmful effects of human activity on the environment ... I was proud to co-sponsor House Bill 225," Arndt said. "This legislation will help homeowners that discover abandoned orphan wells on their properties to properly address them."

My Town NEO: Hudson boys cross country team recognized by Roegner, LaRose

"It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to win a state title," Roegner said. "Our Hudson Boys Cross Country Team won the Division I State Championship through steadfast dedication. With an average 3.99 GPA, they are incredible student athletes and have earned the admiration of the state of Ohio."

Columbus Dispatch: Ohio lawmakers going after pharmacy benefit managers

Reps. Scott Lipps, R-Franklin, and Thomas West, D-Canton, say pharmacy benefit management companies (PBMs) are issuing "gag orders" to keep pharmacists quiet about what could be cheaper medicines for their clients, and keeping the extra money for themselves — something the lawmakers hope to ban with new legislation, House Bill 479.

WKSU: Conservative lawmakers renew their push for Ohio to become a right-to-work state

Reps. John Becker and Craig Riedel say their bill would allow voters to decide whether Ohio should be a right-to-work state for public and private sector employees and would put limits on unions to collect dues and spend money on political ads. Riedel says Ohioans should decide this issue, once and for all.

Marion Online: Riordan McClain sworn in as State Representative of the 87th Ohio House District

"Riordan McClain's experience in the private sector and financial management will surely prove to be a valuable asset to our caucus," said Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville). ... "I accept this appointment and will be honored to serve Ohio's 87th House District as state representative. I am appreciative of all the support that I've received through this process and look to carry that forward into a successful term representing our shared values," said McClain.

Wilmington News Journal: Guest column from Speaker Cliff Rosenberger: Business growth affirms healthy economy

The eighth consecutive year the state has experienced a record number of filings, new businesses have grown more than 46 percent since 2010. This continued progress is a

sure sign of economic health — when individuals are thriving and feel comfortable, they are able to invest in establishing their own business.

Portsmouth Daily Times: Rep. Johnson honors 'Burg with state resolution

Ohio State Representative Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) honored the Wheelersburg Pirates' football program for its state championship run back in the fall.

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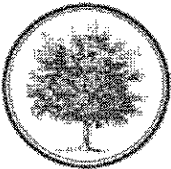
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From: The Buckeye Institute
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Subject: As Capital Budget Season Begins, Buckeye's Newest Report Outlines Principles to Guide Government Spending

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2018

As Capital Budget Season Begins, Buckeye's Newest Report Outlines Principles to Guide Government Spending

Recommends Using Capital Budget on Physical and Democratic Infrastructure Needs

Columbus, OH -- As the Ohio General Assembly prepares to consider the 2018 capital budget, The Buckeye Institute released its most recent report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*. The report outlines three principles policymakers should use in spending taxpayer dollars and recommends using the 2018 capital budget to strengthen Ohio's physical and democratic infrastructure.

"As the 2018 capital budget process begins, it is important for policymakers to be guided by three spending principles: constrain the growth of state government, eliminate corporate and special interest welfare, and focus spending on the core functions of state government," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and co-author of the report. "By following these principles, Ohio policymakers will ensure they are wisely spending taxpayer dollars and are putting the state on the road to growth and prosperity."

In its report, Buckeye outlines three principles that should guide government spending:

- **Constrain the Growth of State Government** -- Large governments inhibit economic growth and prosperity and Ohio should look for ways to decrease the size of government, rather than giving it more control.
- **Eliminate Corporate and Special Interest Welfare** -- The government should not use taxpayer dollars to subsidize companies or special interests. Crony capitalism does not drive economic growth, nor is it a responsible use of taxpayer dollars.
- **Focus Spending on the Core Functions of State Government** -- Non-essential spending needs to be curtailed. Government spending limits the ability of policymakers to embrace free-market reforms that will benefit the economic growth and prosperity of Ohio.

The report's authors go on to recommend that policymakers focus state resources on physical infrastructure needs -- roads, bridges, sewer lines, water pipes, water treatment facilities, schools, and other state government facilities -- and on the state's democratic infrastructure needs -- voting machines, systems to maintain voter rolls, and systems we use to count and protect votes.

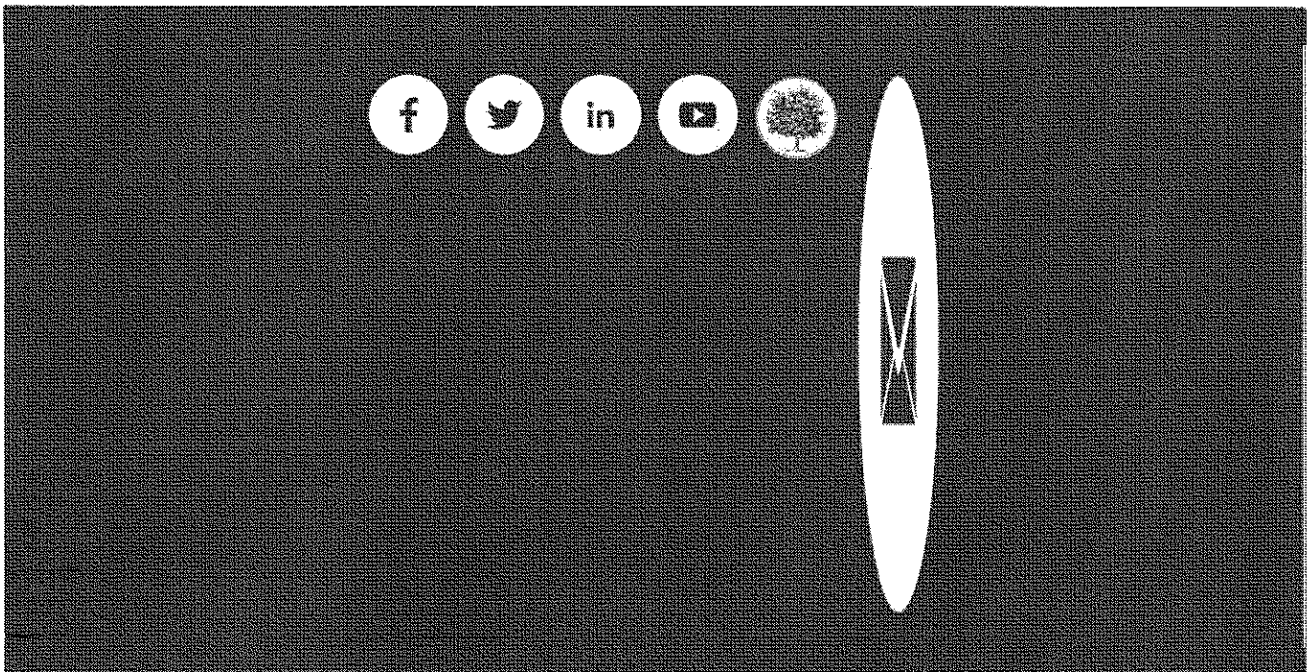
"While the specific ways in which we build and maintain Ohio's infrastructure are subject to debate, what isn't debatable is what taxpayer dollars should be spent on," said **Quinn Beeson**, an economic policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute's **Economic Research Center** and co-author of the report. "Ohio's policymakers should use the capital budget on physical and democratic infrastructure rather than feel-good projects that could, and should, be funded through private means."

Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans was co-authored by Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and Quinn Beeson, an economic policy analyst at The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center.

###

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
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From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House All
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a


claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

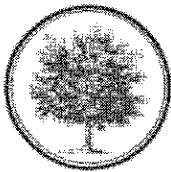


Kristin Boggs
State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:05 AM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Daniel Dew in The Columbus Dispatch "Ohioans really support bail reform"

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In a piece for *The Columbus Dispatch*, Buckeye's Daniel J. Dew calls out suspect polling being used by the American Bail Coalition to claim that people oppose bail reform.

Reputable polling, conducted and released using professional industry standards, shows 85 percent of people favor replacing cash bail with supervised release.

The Columbus Dispatch

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= A

Ohioans really support bail reform

The Columbus Dispatch

Letter to the Editor

February 4, 2018

In his Jan. 26 op-ed, Jeffrey J. Clayton, executive director of the American Bail Coalition, touted a poll that claims Ohioans reject bail reform. Unfortunately, the poll's sample size of 100 people more closely resembled a "Family Feud" survey than a scientific study. At a minimum, the coalition should release the questions asked, the margin of error and whether the poll meets standards recommended by the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

Just last month, a national poll using industry standards found that 85 percent of people favored replacing cash bail with supervised release, especially in cases where the defendant does not pose a threat to society.

The outcomes from jurisdictions that have moved away from money bail and are using verified risk-assessment tools speak for themselves. In those jurisdictions, less crime is being committed by those awaiting trial, more defendants are showing up for court and defendants who enjoy the presumption of innocence can keep their jobs and support their families.

Whether the goal is public safety, fairness for the poor or saving taxpayer money, "the survey says" ... reform bail.

Daniel J. Dew

Legal fellow

The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center

Columbus

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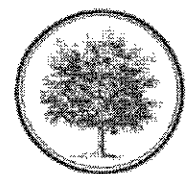
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:05 AM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Daniel Dew in The Columbus Dispatch "Ohioans really support bail reform"

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The Columbus Dispatch

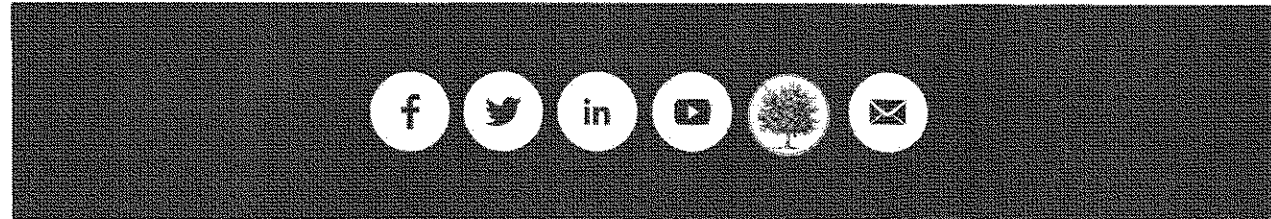
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Ohioans really support bail reform

*liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye
Institute does not seek or accept government funding.*

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Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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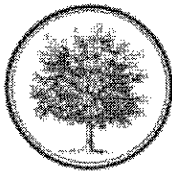
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 2:06 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Calls for the Protection of Taxpayers and Free Speech

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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute Calls for the Protection of Taxpayers and Free Speech

= A

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute has joined a coalition of more than 100 organizations calling on Congress to protect taxpayers and their First Amendment rights to confidentially give to charitable organizations without the fear of intimidation (**Read the letter here**).

"Sadly, Americans have been intimidated, harassed, and even threatened for their political and religious beliefs, which should never happen in this country," said **Robert Alt**,

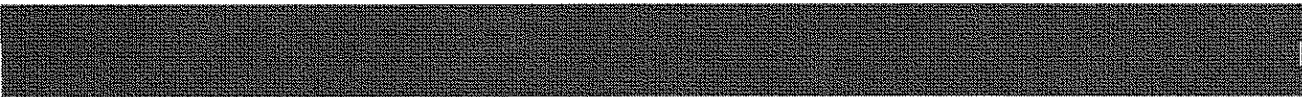
president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute. "Americans have a First Amendment right to join, support, and speak collectively through organizations without being put on a government list that is vulnerable to hackers and leaking to extremists who refuse to tolerate opposing views."

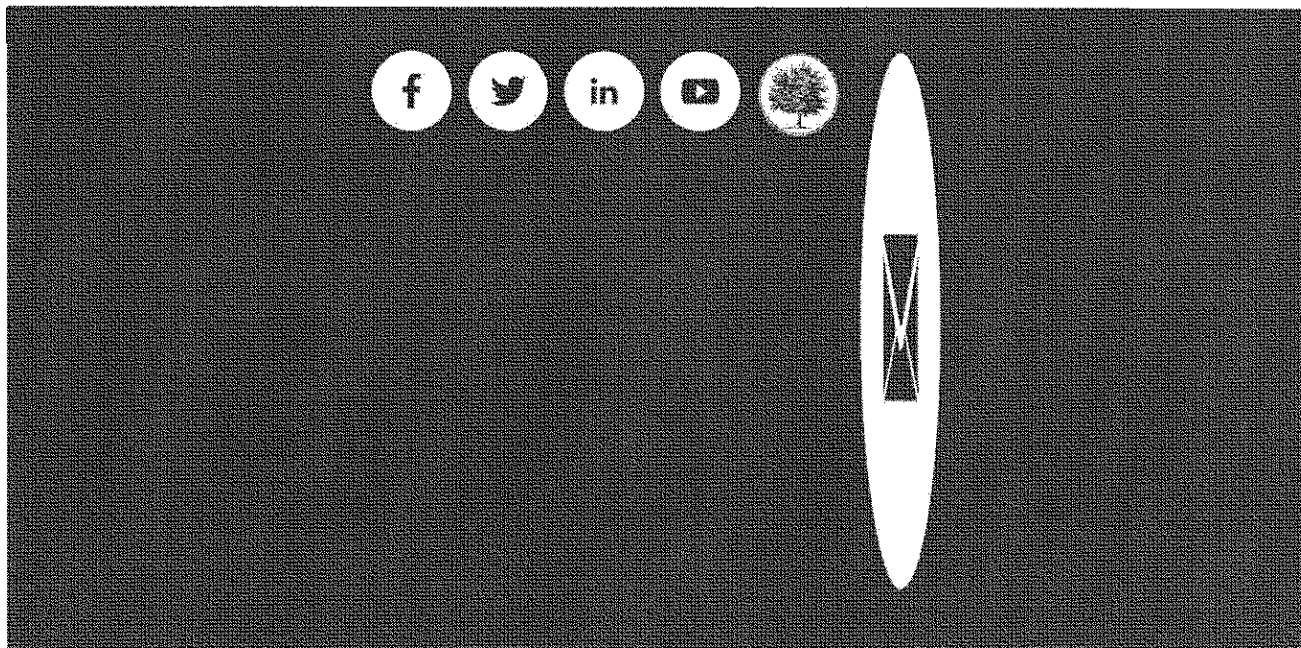
The coalition sent a letter to Congress calling for the elimination of the 990 Schedule B form requirement for 501(c) organizations, which is a mandatory IRS form that lists names and addresses of donors who give to private charities and other 501(c) organizations. Although the IRS is legally prohibited from using the information collected, the retention of this information, as the letter highlights, has resulted in intimidation and harassment of donors.

###

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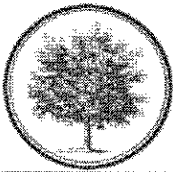
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 7:01 AM
To: Kasych, Shawn
Subject: Buckeye President Robert Alt in The Hill: Public-Employees Deserve a Voice in Selecting Their own Union

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

By now you've seen our **outdoor ads** and read about our **Worker Voting Rights** campaign to empower public employees with the voting rights they deserve.

Yesterday, Robert Alt, our president and CEO, had a **piece published in *The Hill*** arguing that it is time to give public employees the right to vote on the union that represents them at the bargaining table. Robert writes,

"But without a vote through which members can choose their own union, today's public-sector employees are rendered mute and unable to have a meaningful opportunity to select a new union or hold their current union accountable if it fails to meet expectations or protect its workers' interests."

It is hard to be opposed to giving people the right to vote, but unfortunately entrenched interests insist that our hard-working civil servants "simply wear the hand-me-down unions that their foremothers and fathers passed down from the Johnson and Carter years."

As Robert writes, "It is time for unions to embrace their democratic heritage and support their own members' right to vote. It is time for all of us to join together to create more perfect unions. It is time for public employees to have a voice and a choice. It is time for worker voting rights."

THE HILL

Hand-me-down unions don't work for current workers

The Hill

By Robert Alt

February 8, 2018

This opinion piece appeared in The Hill, you can [read the full piece here](#).

The recent issue over a potential federal government shutdown reminded us that Americans rely on our public employees to provide and maintain important services across the country.

Federal, state, local or public-sector employees are too often represented by hand-me-down labor unions that current workers inherited from government employees of a bygone era.

Historically, labor unions have played a significant role in fighting for both workers' rights and fair representation at the bargaining table.

Labor unions laid the foundation for the democratic rights of marginalized minorities when black workers formed the Colored National Labor Union in 1869, 14 months before blacks secured the right to vote.

Thirty-five years later, the American Women's Trade Union launched a successful campaign for women's suffrage. Those bottom-up victories stand in stark contrast to today's top-down operation of unions that are now denying their own members the right to vote.

Unfortunately, union leaders who once fought so hard for democratic rights and representation have refused to recognize voting rights for their own members.

Rather than allow today's union members to have a real voice and a choice, entrenched labor leaders insist that these public-sector employees simply wear the hand-me-down unions that their foremothers and fathers passed down from the Johnson and Carter years.

In fact, **94 percent of current union members have never had the opportunity to vote** for which union will negotiate their pay, benefits, hours, and working conditions on their behalf.

Continue reading...

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Support The Buckeye Institute!



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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Kasych, Shawn

Subject: Education bill sets up battle between teachers and administrators, businesses

Monday Feb. 12, 2018

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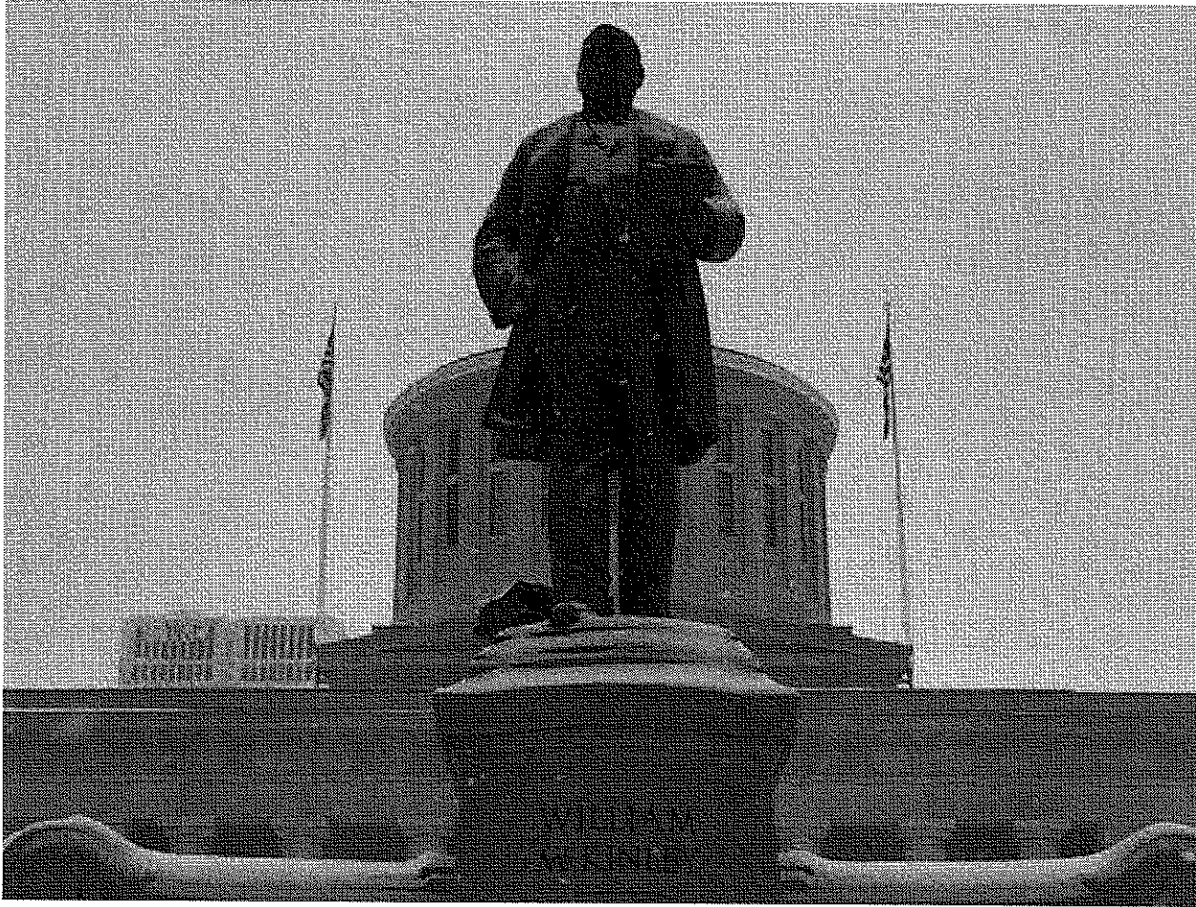
Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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= 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9 **License check:** A bill that would allow a superintendent to hire teachers for grades or subject areas for which they are not licensed is pitting teachers against superintendents and the business community. Senate Bill 216, called the "Public School Deregulation Act," makes other sweeping changes, such as increasing to seven years the time non-teaching school employees must work to receive tenure, and changing teacher evaluations. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council back the bill. The Buckeye Association of School Administrators has coordinated a dozen superintendents' testimonies, from Berkshire village to Wyoming city, and

is visiting individual lawmakers to drum up support, said the association's Tom Ash.

= 9 **Op-ed:** Among opponents are the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and teachers' unions across the state – including the Ohio Education Association. OEA President Becky Higgins said current licensing requirements ensure teachers are prepared for the classroom. But there may be room for negotiation because she said in an email to Capitol Letter the group supports the bill's change in teacher evaluations.

= 9 **Working out the details:** While the Department of Medicaid continues to develop its work requirement proposal for Medicaid expansion recipients, the Cleveland-based Center for Community Solutions said in a new policy paper that health insurers and providers may have to maintain more paperwork to keep people covered, an additional burden to them. Medicaid spokeswoman Melissa Ayers told Capitol Letter that once the proposal is released, there will be a 30-day public notice period and two public hearings before the proposal is sent to Washington for approval.

= 9 **Don't leave me:** Reps. John Patterson, a Jefferson Democrat, and Rick Carfagna, a Genoa Township Republican, have proposed a college loan repayment program for people with degrees from Ohio colleges and universities in science, technology, engineering and math – provided they stay in the state and work in their field. They believe such a workforce would spur innovation and the economy. The \$15 million loan repayment program in House Bill 396 would need to be renewed after next fiscal year, however, since the measure only provides one year of funding.

= 9 **Smack in the middle:** Ohio road performance and cost effectiveness are 26th highest in the country, according to a new report from the libertarian Reason Foundation that looked at state spending, fatalities and federally designated deficient bridges.

= 9

Retirement plan? State Rep. Bill Seitz has notified the Hamilton County Board of Elections that he plans to retire by the end of the year. But the Cincinnati lawmaker isn't going anywhere - it's a procedural move to collect his public pension while also collecting a legislative salary if he wins re-

election this year - a maneuver known as "double-dipping," according to the Cincinnati Enquirer. Of course, it's also a way for Seitz to thumb his nose at his critics who have called on him to resign for making derogatory comments about a fellow lawmaker earlier this month.

= 9 **Double trouble:** Double-dipping is legal but controversial. Even the conservative American Legislative Exchange Council, whose board Seitz sits on, has called for eliminating the practice.

= 9 **Picking favorites:** The Ohio Republican Party's state central committee weighed in Friday on Ohio's top GOP primary races, endorsing Mike DeWine for governor and Jim Renacci for U.S. Senate. As cleveland.com's Andrew Tobias explains, the decision opens the door for the endorsed candidates to get party assistance while pressuring the non-endorsed candidates to drop out.

= 9 **Taylor goes off on DeWine:** Gubernatorial candidate Mary Taylor and U.S. Senate hopeful Mike Gibbons gave the time-honored response for candidates passed over for an endorsement, saying it should be Ohio voters, not "establishment" insiders, who pick the winner. Taylor forcefully made her displeasure known. "You are sending a dangerous message that elections are about inevitability," she told central committee members. Taylor laid into DeWine at length, saying (among many other quotable lines) that he "has a liberal voting record as long as the line of babies he's kissed and hands he's shook." She also said she wouldn't support DeWine in the general election.

= 9

Sexism at work? The central committee also got a talking-to from former Ashtabula County Treasurer Sandy O'Brien, who lost the party's endorsement for state treasurer to Robert Sprague. O'Brien said there is an "institutional bias" in favor of men, who can raise more money than women because they don't have to spend as much time taking care of children and elderly family members. State GOP Chair Jane Timken said such criticism was "ironic," given that she was elected as head of the party after raising close to \$3 million for Republicans.

= 9 **Gay friendly:** The national LGBT advocacy group Human Rights Campaign has endorsed Rep. Nickie Antonio over Rep. Martin Sweeney in

the Democratic primary for Senate District 23. In a release, the group said while it rarely endorses candidates ahead of a primary, Antonio – currently the only openly gay Ohio state lawmaker – ~~3~~ 0has been a relentless champion of equality and fairness in Ohio.”

= 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

All in the family: State Rep. Martin Sweeney's daughter Bride Rose Sweeney has filed to take over the Cleveland Democrat's House District 14 seat. And as cleveland.com's Mark Naymik reports, "she is in excellent position to win" over three primary challengers. One of those opponents, Rick Raley, claims Bride is ineligible to run because she's lived outside the district for years, a charge Bride denies.

= 9 **Dayton drama:** State Rep. Niraj Antani has accused his fellow Dayton-area Republican, Rep. Jim Butler, of recruiting Miamisburg Vice Mayor Sarah Clark to challenge Antani, in the primary, according to the Dayton Daily News' Lynn Hulsey. Butler and Clark denied the accusation, with Clark saying she believes it's the opening salvo in an expected 2020 primary between Antani and Butler for term-limited State Sen. Peggy Lehner's seat.

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Toledo War: "Former state officeholder Mark Wagoner Jr. is claiming to have nearly matched political rival Jon Stainbrook in recruiting candidates for the battle to elect a new chairman of the Lucas County Republican Party," writes the Toledo Blade's Mark Reiter. "The question now is how many of the potential 276 precinct committee hopefuls will get elected in the May 8 primary for the opportunity to vote for chairmanship of the party."

= 9

Think Theis: On the latest episode of cleveland.com's "Ohio Matters" podcast, Progress Ohio Executive Director Sandy Theis offers insight and stories about her nearly 40 years as both a dogged statehouse reporter and a progressive activist.

= 9

On the air: The political ads have started in the crowded special election for Ohio's 12th congressional district. Carol O'Brien, one of 11 Republicans seeking Pat Tiberi's former seat, is now airing a one-minute radio ad in the

Columbus market labeling her a "constitutional conservative" and touting her work as Delaware County prosecutor, according to the Columbus Dispatch's Jessica Wehrman.

= 9 **You're fired:** Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray tells the Dispatch's Darrel Rowland that if he had stayed at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, President Donald Trump would have fired him after last week's candidate filing deadline had passed. "The only reason he would have survived even that long is that Trump was heeding Ohio Republicans' request not to make him a martyr for the governor's race," Rowland writes.

= 9 **Schoolyard fight:** State Sen. Joe Schiavoni went after Democratic gubernatorial rival Dennis Kucinich for taking three years to criticize the 2015 "Youngstown Plan," which may lead to the privatization of the city school district, according to the Youngstown Vindicator. Schiavoni: "This is how politicians work. They figure out which issues get you upset, then they promise to fix everything. Everyone's telling you what they'll do. You should look for the candidate who's already doing it."

= 9 **Knee problems:** Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Bill O'Neill came under fire Saturday from Cordray and others during a Black Votes Matter forum in Columbus over O'Neill's disapproval of NFL players who take a knee during the National Anthem to protest police violence against minorities. The Dispatch's Marty Schladen has more.

= 9 **Full Disclosure**

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Five things we learned about Euclid Democratic state Rep. Kent Smith's May 15 financial disclosure.

= 9 1. He only listed one job in 2016 -- state representative -- from which he earned \$65,584.

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2. He has investments in the Ohio State Public Employees Retirement System and the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio.

= 9

3. He owed at least \$1,000 each to Ally Bank and Capital One.

= 9 4. The state reimbursed him \$7,748 for mileage between home and Columbus.

= 9 5. He also racked up \$700 in travel expenses from the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators.

= 9 **On The Move**

= 9 Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rich Cordray announced he has hired Nelson Devezin as his campaign political director. Devezin has been the Ohio Democratic Party's political director since 2014.

= 9

What's Going On

= 9 **8 a.m. – Ohio State Board of Education.** *Ohio Department of Education, 22 S. Front St.*

= 9 **7 to 9 p.m. – Fundraiser for Fair Districts = Fair Elections:** Scheduled special guests include Catherine Turcer of Common Cause Ohio and Ohio State University professor emeritus Richard Gunther. Contribution levels range from \$25 to \$100. *El Arepazo, 515 S. High St.*

= 9

4 p.m. – Rally in support of Capital Care Network transfer agreement: NARAL Pro-Choice and pro-abortion rights locally elected officials and clergy will gather to call on two local hospitals, ProMedica and St. Luke's, to sign a transfer agreement with Toledo's last open abortion clinic, which the Ohio Supreme Court ordered shuttered last week. *Corner of Monroe and Midwood avenues, Toledo.*

= 9

4 p.m. – SEIU workers to rally in Cleveland: Workers plan to hold a rally and news conference on the 50th Anniversary of Historic Memphis Sanitation Strike. *RTA HealthLine, 105th St. and Euclid Ave.*

= 9 **5:30 to 7 p.m. – Rep. John Becker fundraiser:** House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger is slated to be a special guest. Donation levels range from \$250 to \$5,000. *Eastgate Grammas Pizza, 618 Old State Route 74, #5,*

Cincinnati.

= 9

Straight From The Source

= 9 "Just spoke to @JohnKasich to express condolences and prayers to all for the horrible shooting of two great police officers from @WestervillePD. This is a true tragedy!"

= 9 - President Donald Trump, tweeting Sunday about Saturday's fatal shooting of two Westerville police officers.

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From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Kasych, Shawn

Subject: Legislators look to bring Ohio tax law up to code

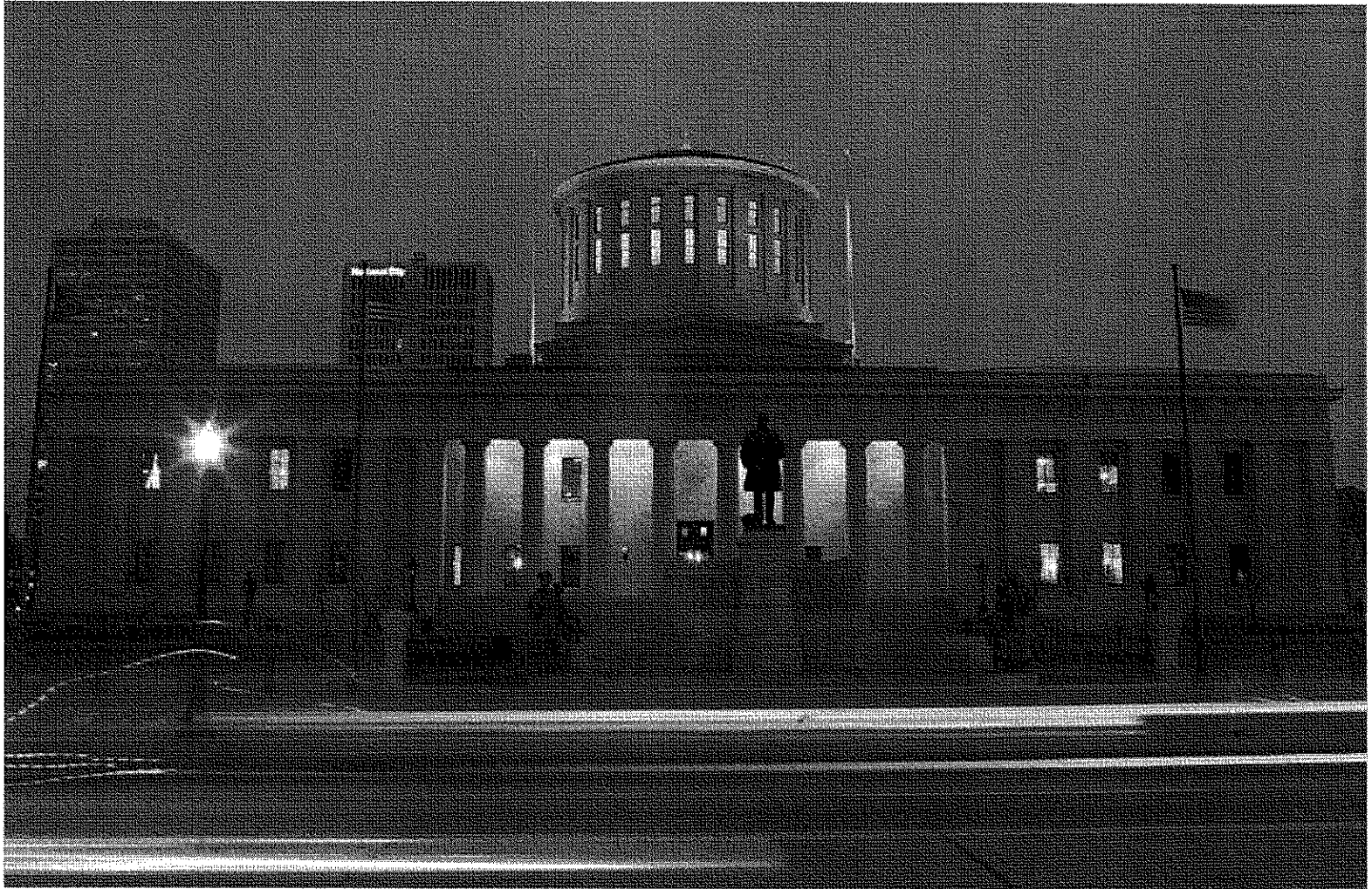
Tuesday Feb. 13, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer



Rotunda Rumblings

Taxing issue: Almost every year, the General Assembly updates state tax law to reflect tweaks the federal government makes to the IRS code. But with Congress having recently overhauled the tax law, Ohio Senate Bill 22 – which has incorporated previous smaller changes – may be amended Tuesday to follow the federal changes. Sponsor Sen. Bob Peterson said the biggest change will be requiring the Ohio Department of Taxation to start tracking dependents, since the federal government will no longer do it for the state. The personal and dependent exemption is going away.

Phone ahead: The House Public Utilities Committee on Tuesday may

approve a substitute bill for, then wave ahead a bipartisan telecom deregulation bill designed to help local telephone companies. House Bill 402, as currently written, would allow local telephone companies to merge without state approval, permit base rate hikes of up to 20 percent per year, and no longer mandate that phone companies pay triple damages for violations. The legislation follows an Ohio Telecom Association report showing local phone companies in the state have lost 80 percent of their landline customers since 2000 as mobile phone use has skyrocketed.

Hagan's 'disgraceful' tweet: State Rep. Christina Hagan angered Republicans across the state with a racially loaded Sunday night tweet. "Armando Gonzalez and 2 other suspects have been charged in illegal immigrant drug ring," Hagan wrote, attaching an article about an alleged drug-trafficking ring in Butler County. One of the three suspects identified in the story is actually named Armando Gonzalez-Rosas. People immediately took note of Hagan's selective editing and inclusion of his name, since her opponent in the GOP primary for Ohio's 16th Congressional District is Anthony Gonzalez. Cleveland-area Tea Party activist Ralph King called the tweet in "poor taste." Ohio Right to Life's Mike Gonidakis called it "embarrassing and disgraceful."

Abortion politics: The Ohio Right to Life PAC announced Monday it will endorse Republican Attorney General Mike DeWine for governor, in part for his "fierce defense" of many of the Ohio's recent anti-abortion legislation. The PAC will decide later how much it will contribute to his campaign. DeWine's GOP opponent Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor questioned DeWine's anti-abortion record when he was in Congress.

Labor movement: Since lawmakers introduced six proposed constitutional amendments favoring "right to work" over labor unions, left-leaning organizations have been crafting a response, which will be announced at a Tuesday press conference. Policy Matters Ohio and ProgressOhio will hit back with 10 ideas they will argue create security, stability and prosperity for workers. Joining them will be a Wright State University economics professor and a Cincinnati firefighter.

Art House: State officials are set on Tuesday to hold a public unveiling of

the first piece of non-portrait art in the last 59 years to be put on permanent display in the Statehouse. The painting "Greeting Lincoln," from the artist Pamela Patrick White, depicts President-elect Abraham Lincoln addressing a joint session of the Ohio legislature on February 13, 1861. The painting will be hung in the hallway outside the House chamber.

Out for the week: The Ohio Senate has no voting sessions or committee meetings scheduled this week. Senate President Larry Obhof's spokesman said the chamber met three times last week as it worked on adopting the congressional redistricting proposal, and senators will continue to work behind the scenes on the capital budget.

Whip it good: Ken Harbaugh, the Democrat hoping to unseat Republican U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs, has landed a big name for his fundraiser next Monday: U.S. House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer. The event, set to be held at former Ohio Democratic Party Chair Chris Redfern's winery in Marblehead, is fairly cheap to attend: \$25 per person, \$40 per couple (kids free).

Stories We're Talking About

Buzzkill: Auditor Dave Yost found what he called a "critical flaw" in the state's grading system for medical marijuana grow applications, reports cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt. A password flaw allowed two Ohio Department of Commerce employees unfettered access to the application grading system, giving them the ability to change the scores of grower applications. "Because of this critical flaw in the procedure's design, neither this office, nor the public, can rely upon the cultivator application results," Yost said in a letter obtained by Borchardt.

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cops, transportation, food assistance and Lake Erie cleanup while increasing money for combating opioid abuse. And, per The Plain Dealer's Grant Segall, the budget would give a boost to NASA's Glenn Research Center.

ECOT up: The state school board decided Monday to recover more than \$19 million from ECOT, The Plain Dealer's Patrick O'Donnell reports. The vote affirmed earlier findings by the Department of Education and doesn't add money to the \$80 million ECOT has been reported to owe the state.

Overdoses: Ohio's overdose problem is getting worse, writes the Columbus Dispatch's Randy Ludlow. Drug overdose rates climbed 39 percent, making it the third-largest increase among all the states.

The Big D: If you're looking for the place with the fastest job growth in the state, you'll have to look outside Cleveland (0.2 percent), Columbus (1.4 percent) and Cincinnati (0.4 percent). As the Dayton Daily News reports, employment in the Dayton metro area grew 2.8 percent between December 2016 and December 2017.

Full Disclosure

Five things we learned from Cleveland Democrat Sen. Sandra Williams' May 12 financial disclosure statement:

1. in addition to earning \$65,584 in the Senate in 2016, she earned \$1,000 to \$9,999 as a professor at Cleveland State University.
2. She owed at least \$1,000 each to Credit Union of Ohio, Third Federal Bank, Federal Loan Servicing Center, Capital One, Wells Fargo, Katzel (whom she identified as a dentist), Sam's Club, Ann Taylor, Dillard's, Home Shopping Network and Charter One.
3. She racked up \$6,573.84 in mileage between home and Columbus.
4. Community Blight Solutions paid for dinner worth \$214.94 when she was in Israel – a \$1,127.39 trip that the Jewish Federation of North America paid for.

the first piece of non-portrait art in the last 59 years to be put on permanent display in the Statehouse. The painting "Greeting Lincoln," from the artist Pamela Patrick White, depicts President-elect Abraham Lincoln addressing a joint session of the Ohio legislature on February 13, 1861. The painting will be hung in the hallway outside the House chamber.

Out for the week: The Ohio Senate has no voting sessions or committee meetings scheduled this week. Senate President Larry Obhof's spokesman said the chamber met three times last week as it worked on adopting the congressional redistricting proposal, and senators will continue to work behind the scenes on the capital budget.

Whip it good: Ken Harbaugh, the Democrat hoping to unseat Republican U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs, has landed a big name for his fundraiser next Monday: U.S. House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer. The event, set to be held at former Ohio Democratic Party Chair Chris Redfern's winery in Marblehead, is fairly cheap to attend: \$25 per person, \$40 per couple (kids free).

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5. In addition to Israel, Williams also went on trips paid for by the Urban Agriculture Academy (\$1,000), Women in Government (\$1,450), the German Marshall Fund (\$450) and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (\$500).

On The Move

Trevor L. Brown has been named the inaugural executive director of the newly created State of Ohio Leadership Institute, created last year to provide training and education to elected officials. Brown will continue to serve as dean of Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

Tod Bowen has been hired as the Ohio Restaurant Association's new managing director of sales and growth. Bowen previously was founder/president of New Century Solutions, a political consulting and fundraising firm with ties to Gov. John Kasich.

What's Going On

10 a.m. – Ohio Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness. *Board Room, State Library of Ohio, 274 East First Ave.*

10:30 a.m. – U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan news conference: The Youngstown-area Democrat plans to meet with the media after touring Camp Ravenna's Joint Military Training Center. *Camp Ravenna, 8451 State Route 5, Ravenna.*

11 a.m. – Policy Matters Ohio to release policy recommendations: The liberal group plans to issue a report titled "CA new way forward: 10 ways to support Ohio's working people." *ProgressOhio Offices, Second Floor Conference Room, Suite 404, 35 East Gay St.*

11 a.m. – Ohio Statehouse to unveil historic painting of Lincoln. *The Hall of the Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio Statehouse.*

Noon – Black History Month performance: The 45-minute show will

feature Paisha Thomas performing "Stories and Songs of the Black Experience." *Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.*

1:30 p.m. – House Criminal Justice Committee: The committee may amend House Bill 355, which would expressly ban "sexting" in Ohio by people younger than 21. *Room 114, Ohio Statehouse.*

3 p.m. – House Public Utilities Committee: The panel may adopt a substitute bill for and vote to report House Bill 402, a deregulation bill for local telephone companies. *Room 116, Ohio Statehouse.*

5 to 7 p.m. – Ohio Council of County Officials' legislative reception: Open to all lawmakers. *Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.*

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Ohio House Democratic Caucus Mardi Gras Party: Sponsor levels range from \$50 to \$2,500. *Rambling House Soda, 310 E. Hudson St.*

6 p.m. – Jon Husted to speak in Holmes County: The secretary of state and candidate for lieutenant governor is slated to keynote the Holmes County GOP's Lincoln Day Dinner. *Carlisle Village Inn, 4949 Walnut St., Walnut Creek.*

Birthdays

Rep. Bill Patmon

Kelly Kefauver, Ohio Senate Democrats' policy adviser

Straight From The Source

"We must not allow a political regulatory scheme to close Toledo's remaining abortion clinic. Its absence would not diminish the number of abortions but would increase the injury and death of women in my home city and state. Democracy begins with each person's control of his or her own body. Without reproductive freedom, there is no democracy for America women."

- Feminist leader and Toledo native Gloria Steinem, in a statement on Monday after the Ohio Supreme Court upheld a state order to shutter Capital Care.

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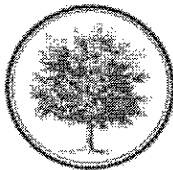
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**New Buckeye Institute Policy Brief Highlights the
Problems with Government-Owned Broadband Networks**

Columbus, OH -- In The Buckeye Institute's most recent policy brief, *Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks Are Bad for Taxpayers*, Greg R. Lawson looks at the problems with government-owned and run networks and their high cost to taxpayers.

"Government-owned networks have been springing up across the nation for years and Ohio is no stranger to these government-owned and controlled projects that unfairly compete

with the private sector," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "While these GONs might seem alluring, they frequently fail to live up to the promises made by government officials, and have often led to taxpayer subsidization to maintain operations."

In the paper, Lawson looks at two Ohio case studies, the City of Lebanon and Medina County. The network in Lebanon was plagued with problems almost from the start, as was outlined in a **Buckeye report** in 2006, and was eventually sold to Cincinnati Bell at a loss. Unfortunately, Medina County did not heed the warning signs that Lebanon's experience offered, and according to the Medina County Port Authority's chief operating officer, a mere 140 customers are connected to the network and the county commissioners have already had to subsidize the network twice to the tune of \$1.6 million.

Lawson also outlines a number of problems with government-owned networks, most notably the high cost to taxpayers and the poor service provided, which were highlighted in a **University of Pennsylvania Law School report**. The study found that in the 20 GONs it reviewed, 11 generated a negative cash flow, and of the nine cash-flow positive projects, five of them would take more than 100 years to recover their costs while two would take more than 60 years.

"Ohio's state and local policymakers should take a long hard look at broadband "GON" wrong in the City of Lebanon and Medina County before venturing into new government-owned networks," Lawson stated in the paper. "Local governments should focus their money and attention on providing their citizens with safe roads and drinking water, and let the private sector worry about adding new internet users."

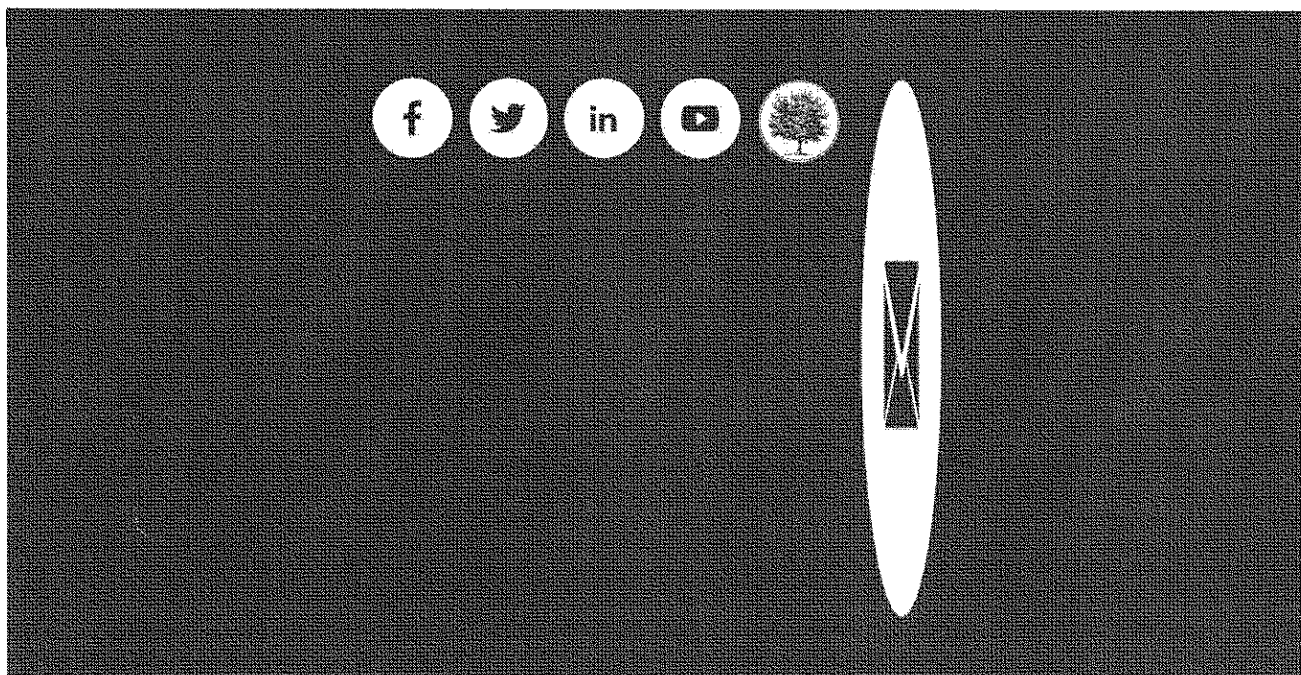
Broadband "GON" Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks Are Bad for Taxpayers was authored by Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

###

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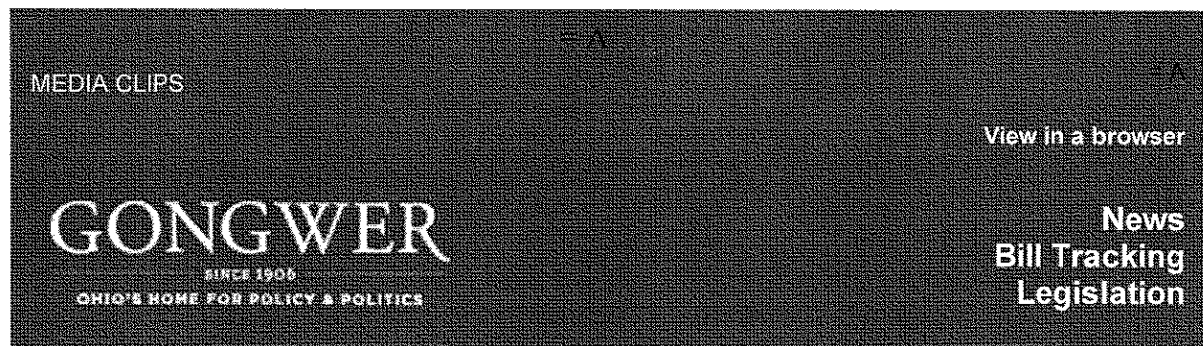
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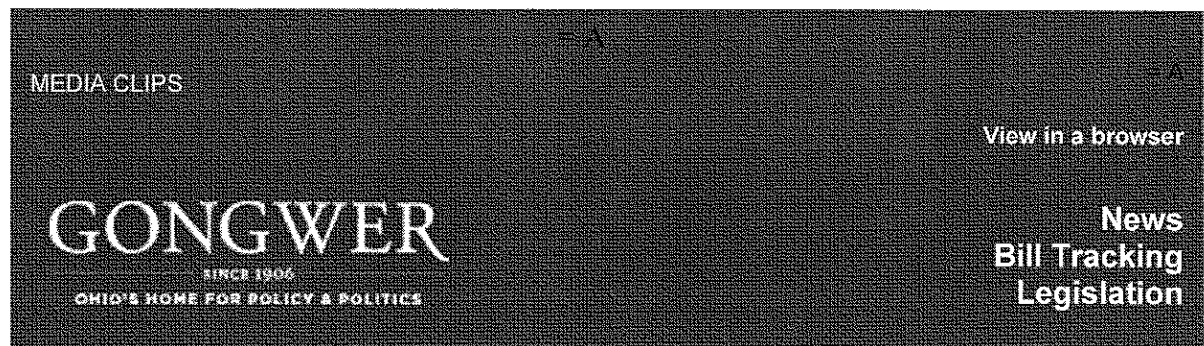
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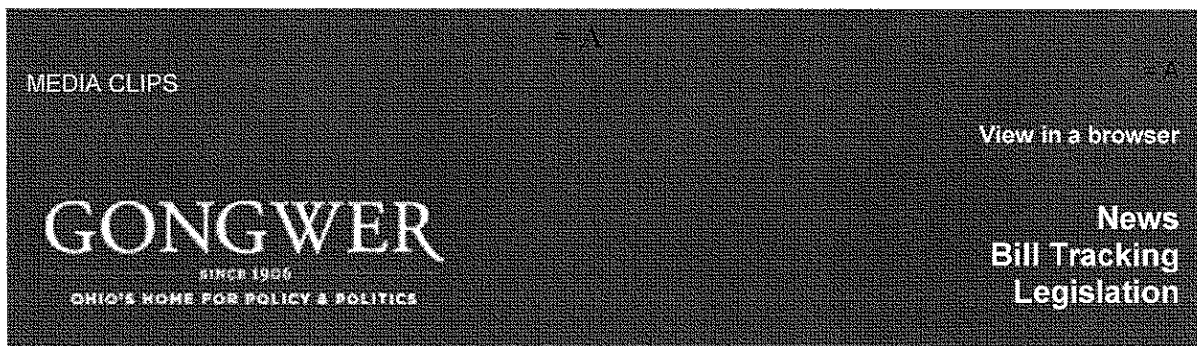
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## HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/14/2018



### **HOSPITAL PACT MIGHT SAVE TOLEDO ABORTION CLINIC**

A hospital system has authorized a patient-transfer agreement to keep the last abortion clinic in Toledo operating.



### **PILLICH TO LEAVE RACE FOR GOVERNOR, BACK CORDRAY**

Only one of the original Democrats running for governor will still be in the race after Wednesday.

### **OHIO WANTS TO REQUIRE THOSE ON MEDICAID TO GET A JOB**

Thousands of Ohioans soon might need to find a job or lose their Medicaid health insurance.

### **KASICH CHOSEN TO ADDRESS GRADUATES OF KENNEDY SCHOOL IN MAY**

Gov. Kasich will address the 2018 graduates of the Harvard Kennedy School in May, the dean of the school said Tuesday.

### **CHIEF JUSTICE ON ECOT CLAIM FOR STATE MONEY: 'HOW IS THAT NOT ABSURD?'**

As ECOT attorney Marion Little finished his arguments for why, under the law, the online school should get full funding for students even if they only log in once a month and do no work, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor interjected.

### **KASICH POSTPONES FOREIGN TRIP TO ATTEND OFFICERS' FUNERAL IN WESTERVILLE**

Long-time Westerville resident Gov. John Kasich is postponing a foreign trade trip to attend the Friday funeral of two police officers slain in his hometown on Saturday.

### **A FIFTH OF OHIO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NEED HELP TO EARN A DIPLOMA THIS YEAR**

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**From:** Westlake, Libby  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 8:54 AM  
**To:** Westlake, Libby  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 2/14/2018

## HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/14/2018



### **HOSPITAL PACT MIGHT SAVE TOLEDO ABORTION CLINIC**

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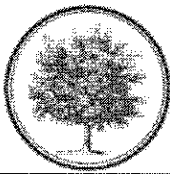
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**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2018 10:03 AM  
**To:** Kasych, Shawn  
**Subject:** New Reason Foundation Study Offers Another Reason to Keep Capital Budget Focused on Infrastructure

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## THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

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### **New Reason Foundation Study Offers Another Reason to Keep Capital Budget Focused on Infrastructure**

**By Greg R. Lawson**  
**February 16, 2018**

A newly-released report from the Reason Foundation, reinforces the need for state policymakers to keep the soon-to-be-released capital budget focused on repairing and building Ohio's physical infrastructure. Something The Buckeye Institute recently called for in our own report, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*.

The Reason Foundation's 23rd Annual Highway Report found that **Ohio ranked** 26th in the nation in highway performance and cost-effectiveness. Not a great ranking for the country's seventh largest state with the ninth largest highway system.

And when you get into the details, the rankings don't get much better. Ohio ranked:

- 20th in deficient bridges;
- 27th in urban Interstate pavement condition;
- 23rd in urbanized area congestion;
- 28th in rural Interstate pavement condition; and
- 17th in rural arterial pavement condition.

The good news is state policymakers have an opportunity to address this problem and can do so without having to spend vast amounts of additional dollars.

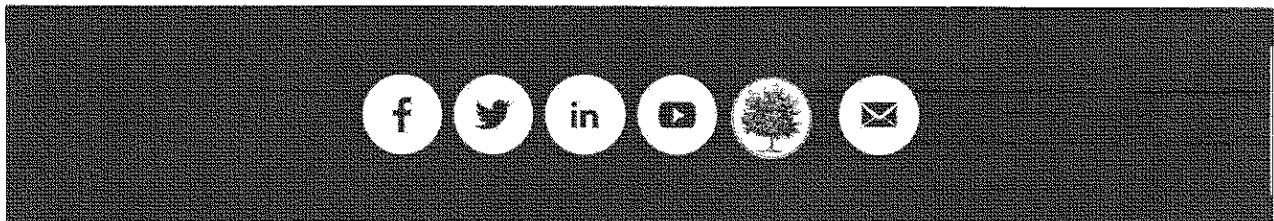
By re-focusing the portion of the capital budget typically spent on pork projects and instead spending it on repairing Ohio's roads and bridges we can begin to reverse these lackluster rankings. That will put Ohio, and Ohioans, back in the fast lane.

*Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.*

###

*Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.*

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,  
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](mailto:info@buckeyeinstitute.org)

**From:** Capitol Letter

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 6:15 AM

**To:** Kasych, Shawn

**Subject:** Ohio township law would undergo wide-ranging changes under new House bill

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Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018

[View in Browser](#)

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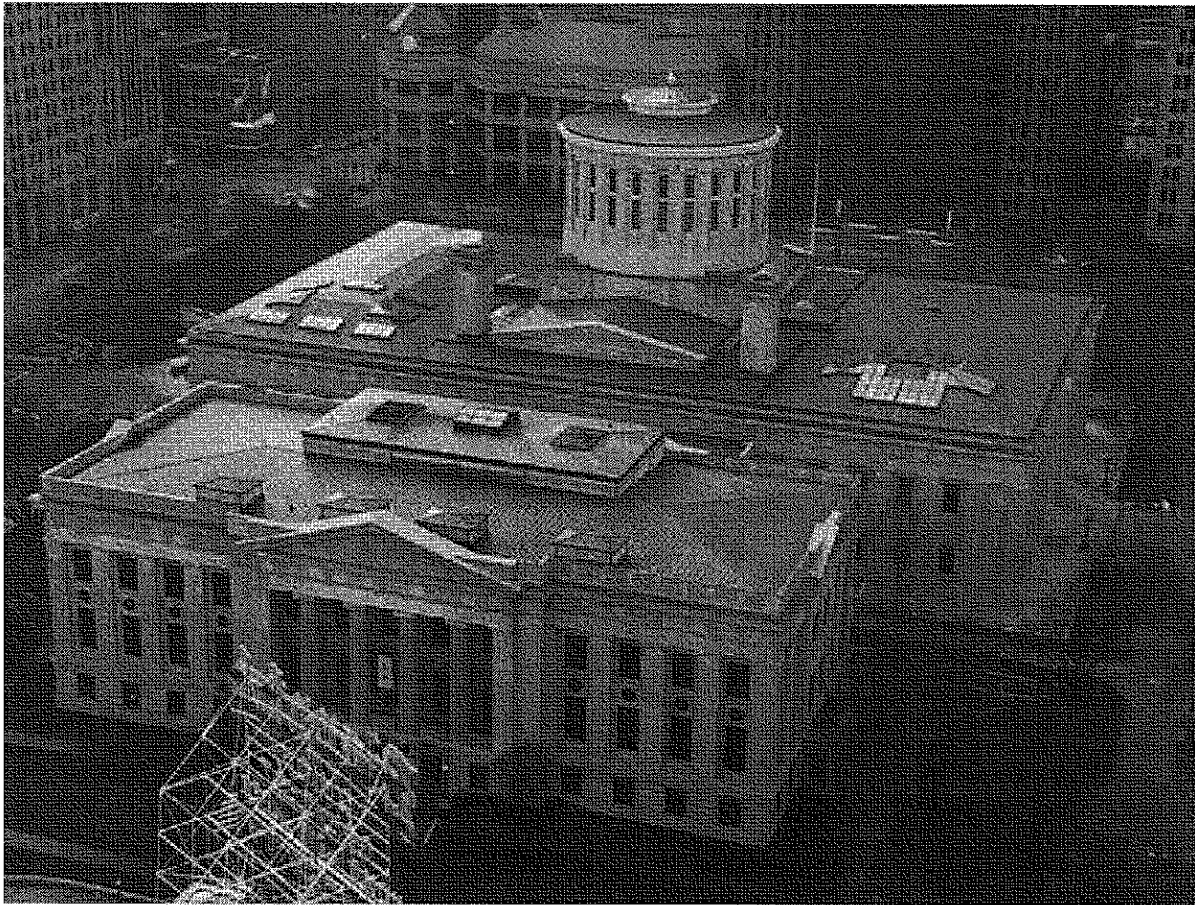
# Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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## = 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9 **Talk of the town(ship):** State rules for townships in Ohio would change in a number of ways under new House Bill 500, from Republican Rep. Rick Carfagna. The measure is a grab-bag of changes that various townships around the state are seeking, according to Carfagna (a former township trustee). The bill would, among other things, require boards of township trustees to elect a chair every year, allow townships to impose a tax of up to 5 percent on cover charges for performances and on the price of scalped tickets beyond the face-value cost, allow townships to tax beyond Ohio's "10-mill limitation" for up to a decade for road and infrastructure projects, and no longer require township zoning commissions to submit zoning plans to county or regional planning commissions for

approval.

= 9 **Double-check:** New legislation from state Sen. (and Republican secretary of state candidate) Frank LaRose would require every county board of elections to conduct a "risk-limiting audit" of at least three races or ballot issues after general and special elections. Under Senate Bill 256, bipartisan teams of elections officials would hand count randomly sampled ballots from the selected races to ensure the initial election result is correct.

= 9 **'Pragmatic conservative':** That's how Gov. John Kasich now labels himself when it comes to the gun debate. As reported Sunday by Capitol Letter's Laura Hancock, a pro-gun section of Kasich's political website was scrubbed Sunday after Kasich appeared on CNN and advocated for "reasonable" gun control measures. By Monday, as Ohio Public Radio/TV Statehouse bureau chief Karen Kasler noted on Twitter, JohnKasich.com had a new section called "Common sense on the Second Amendment."

= 9 **Taylor returns fire:** Kasich's lieutenant governor and frenemy-in-chief Mary Taylor took a shot at her one-time political partner over the gun issue. "All too often in the aftermath of these tragic events, there is [a] knee-jerk reaction to attack the 2nd Amendment rights of our citizens rather than to address the root causes, which often center around mental illness," Taylor, a GOP gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement Monday. "Restricting the rights of law abiding Ohioans to legally purchase a gun does not do that. Neither does removing your prior support for pro-2nd Amendment legislation from a website."

= 9 **School project:** Attorney general and GOP gubernatorial frontrunner Mike DeWine also doesn't favor additional gun-control measures as a result of the Florida high-school shooting, according to a spokesman. But DeWine's campaign on Monday released a plan to protect schools from violent attacks. If elected, DeWine would seek to ensure there is a licensed mental-health professional in every Ohio school (his spokesman said it's unclear how much that would cost or how to pay for it). In addition, the AG would direct Ohio's Strategic Analysis and Information Center (set up after 9/11 to prevent terrorist attacks) to monitor social media for threats to attack schools. Finally, DeWine would seek to ensure that Ohio court

records are made available to the state (and, therefore, federal) law-enforcement database, so a criminal conviction wouldn't be overlooked during a background check to buy a gun.

= 9 **It would be 'great':** We know that Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown have found some common ground on the issue of trade. Now Brown, following up on a meeting at the White House last week with Trump and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, has extended an invitation. "I invite you to come to Ohio and tour a steel mill with me," reads a letter from Brown to Trump. Who knows how the gesture (some might call it a stunt) will be received, but Brown certainly spoke Trump's language. He praised Trump's recent action protecting domestic washing machine manufacturers, called American workers "the best in the world," and concluded by telling the president: "I hope we can plan this great event together."

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**Venturing out:** Democratic U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan says he plans to take a delegation of venture capitalists on "tour of heartland cities to learn what it will take to get more investment flowing to companies in these cities." The tour will begin Wednesday with stops in Youngstown and Akron, then head west to Michigan and Indiana.

= 9 **Health issue:** The pro-Obamacare group Save My Care is airing a new 30-second ad in Cincinnati this week (as well as online statewide) encouraging Ohioans to call on Congress to "stop the partisan war on health care." The ad, titled "Enough is Enough," is part of a national ad buy by the group, according to spokeswoman Amanda Wurst.

= 9 **Everyone's a winner:** The Republican Party of Cuyahoga County on Sunday endorsed both GOP candidates in Ohio House District 6: Michael Canty and Jim Trakas. Canty and Trakas had each called for a joint endorsement, saying they want to minimize GOP infighting so the district (held by term-limited Republican Rep. Marlene Anielski) doesn't fall into Democratic hands.

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## **Stories We're Talking About**

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**More on guns and the governor's race:** Democratic gubernatorial



candidate Dennis Kucinich on Monday launched a push for a statewide ban on AR-15 style semiautomatic weapons, [cleveland.com's Mark Naymik reports](#). Kucinich, who held at a rally in Cleveland with his running mate, Akron Councilwoman Tara Samples, wants communities to pass resolutions urging the state legislature to act. But as Naymik notes, the General Assembly is "dominated by Republican gun-rights advocates who have passed numerous laws loosening gun restrictions."

= 9 **Presidents among us?** Well, their namesakes, anyway. For some Presidents Day fun, [cleveland.com's data expert Rich Exner searched the records](#) of Ohio's nearly 8 million registered voters to see if he could find any names matching the eight presidents with ties to our state. And for good measure, he looked for any Donald Trumps.

= 9 **More Presidents Day fun:** Although Rutherford B. Hayes didn't show up on the current Ohio voter rolls, he did appear at the top of another list: He was found by a new study to be the nation's healthiest president, [cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton reports](#). Trump, whose doctor recently declared him "the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency," rated number 26.

= 9 **ICYMI:** Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor says she would vote for rival Mike DeWine over a Democrat in the governor's race. But she doesn't think it'll come to that, because she plans to win the Republican nomination. Taylor talked about the campaign, her upbringing and lots more [in the latest episode of Ohio Matters](#), [cleveland.com's politics podcast](#). You can check out all the episodes [here](#).

= 9 **Not an oxymoron:** The Columbus Dispatch's Marion Renault [has a story](#) on "conservative conservationists," featuring Republican Sarah Spence, government affairs director for the Ohio Environmental Council.

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## Full Disclosure

= 9 Five things we learned from Tiffin Republican Rep. Bill Reineke's June 9 ethics disclosure.

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1. He was nearly a month late turning in the form, which was due May 15.

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2. He earned \$100,000 or more at Tiffin Ford-Lincoln Inc, of which he was president, and at least \$100,000 at Reineke Ford Lincoln. Ford Motor Co. paid him \$25,000 to \$49,999. He was involved in 20 business entities in 2016. As a legislator, he earned \$63,917 that year.

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3. He listed 47 investments in 2016, including stock in his own companies, a money market with Edward Jones, retirement with Nationwide, and stock with Citigroup, Apple, Alcoa and Cisco.

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4. The state reimbursed him \$3,347.76 for mileage in 2016.

= 9 5. He received a \$125 ticket from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce to its annual meeting and brunch from the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association worth \$19.

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## **On the Move**

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Samantha Herd has been named chief of staff to Democratic lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton, according to a campaign release. Herd, a longtime Cincinnati resident, was political director on Sutton's gubernatorial campaign last year and served as Sutton's district director for her congressional office between 2011 and 2013.

## **= 9 What's Going On**

= 9 **10 a.m. – Ohio Ballot Board meeting:** The board is set to consider approving language for the congressional redistricting ballot issue and determine whether a proposed Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection constitutional amendment contains only one proposed amendment. *Finance Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

= 9 **10 a.m. – House Ways and Means Committee:** The panel may amend and vote on House Bill 337, which would create a sales tax exemption for college textbooks. *Room 121, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **11 a.m. – Lawmakers to unveil bill to make fishing/hunting**

**licenses cheaper:** State Sens. Joe Uecker and Sean O'Brien, as well as state Reps. Jonathan Dever and Jack Cera, are slated to attend. *Harding Press Room, Room 109, Ohio Statehouse.*

**= 9 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Rep. Wes Retherford fundraising luncheon:** Sponsor levels for the Hamilton Republican range from \$350 to \$1,000. *OHROC, 7th floor, 21 W. Broad St.*

**= 9 Noon – Black History Month performance:** The 45-minute show will feature Anthony Gibbs performing "Fighting for Freedom: Ohio's Black Civil War Soldiers." *Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.*

**= 9 1:30 p.m. – Senate session.**

**= 9 5 p.m. – Cordray, Sutton to rally with Lorain-area labor leaders:** Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray and running mate Betty Sutton are expected to speak out against "right to work" legislation in the Ohio House. *Laborers' Union Local 758 Hall, 2089 N. Ridge Rd., Lorain.*

**= 9 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Women of POWER networking reception and fundraiser:** Proceeds from the sold-out event benefit John Glenn College of Public Affairs non-partisan leadership programs that help Ohio women run for political office. *Capital Club, 41 S. High St.*

**= 9 5:30 to 7 p.m. – Republican Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser:** Sponsor levels range from \$500 to \$2,500. *Suite 1650, 88 E. Broad St.*

**= 9**

## **Straight From The Source**

**= 9 "His slam dunk for justice is needed."**

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**- The Rev. Jesse Jackson, defending LeBron James after Fox News commentator Laura Ingraham criticized the Cleveland Cavaliers star for his recent comments about social issues.**

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***One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at [Capitolletter@cleveland.com](mailto:Capitolletter@cleveland.com).***

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**From:** Paretto, Dominic  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:15 AM  
**To:** House\_All  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

**\*\*REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretto

Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd  
Ohio House District 09  
614-644-5079

---

**From:** Paretto, Dominic  
**Sent:** Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM  
**To:** House\_All <House\_All@ohiohouse.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members  
**FROM:** Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs  
**DATE:** February 5, 2018  
**RE:** Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

---

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of

family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at [Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov](mailto:Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov) and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at [Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov](mailto:Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov). **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janine Boyd".

**Janine Boyd**  
**State Representative, Ohio House District 09**

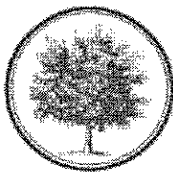
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kristin Boggs".

**Kristin Boggs**  
**State Representative, Ohio House District 18**

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February 20, 2018

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### **The Buckeye Institute Testifies on the Negative Impacts of Tax Exemptions**

*Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio House Ways and Means Committee on House Bill 337*

**Columbus, OH --** The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or [download a PDF](#)) before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee, highlighting the ways that tax credits and exemptions cost Ohio and Ohioans money, and how they complicate the state's tax code making it more difficult for taxpayers to fill-out their returns.

After outlining how the **Ohio Department of Taxation** defines a tax expenditure, Lawson stated Buckeye's long-held position on these types of exemptions saying, "The Buckeye Institute has long opposed most tax expenditures, including credits and exemptions,



because of their adverse impacts on taxpayers and the level playing field on which a free market depends."

Citing research from the **Tax Foundation**, Lawson went on to highlight the particular problem exemptions place on counties located on Ohio's borders. "Adopting too many sales tax exceptions risks forcing some counties to raise their tax rates, which will in turn make them less competitive...and higher rates could prove an even greater competitive disadvantage for counties along our borders."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 337  
Before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow  
The Buckeye Institute  
February 20, 2018**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 337 and Ohio's tax policy.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, a tax expenditure is any tax policy that has the following four characteristics:[1]

- The item reduces, or has the potential to reduce, one of the state's General Revenue Fund taxes;
- The item would have been part of the defined base;
- The item is not subject to an alternative tax; and
- The item is subject to change by state legislative action.

The Buckeye Institute has long opposed most tax expenditures, including credits and exemptions, because of their adverse impacts on taxpayers and the level playing field on which a free market depends.

As exceptions to the tax code, tax expenditures effectively narrow the tax base. The narrower the tax base the higher and more confiscatory taxes become for those still subject to the tax. Thus, tax expenditures, however unintentionally or well-intended, eventually pick economic winners and losers through their preferential treatment under the law.

Flatter taxes, by contrast, levied on broader bases and without special exemptions, lower the tax burden and spread the cost of the tax more evenly and fairly among taxpayers.

Additionally, adopting too many sales tax exceptions risks forcing some counties to raise their tax rates, which will in turn make them less competitive. According to the Tax Foundation, Ohio already has the highest average combined state and local sales tax rate among its neighbors, and higher rates could prove an even greater competitive disadvantage for counties along our borders.[2]

Tax policies that may put more of our counties at a greater disadvantage is not sound tax policy for Ohio.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

---

[1] State of Ohio, **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Tax Expenditure Report**, Office of Budget and Management, November 25, 2016.

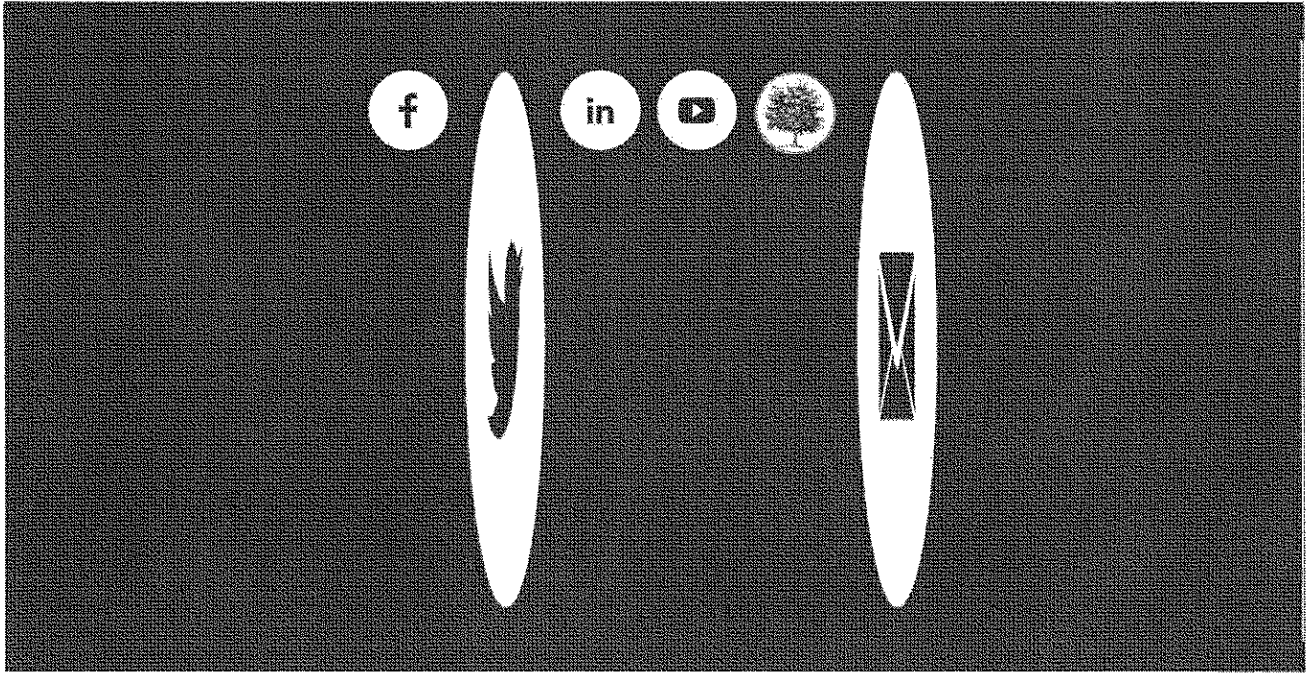
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[2] Jared Walczak and Scott Drenkard, **State and Local Sales Tax Rates 2018**, The Tax Foundation, February 2018.

###

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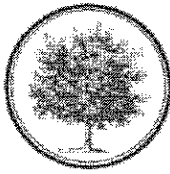
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### **The Buckeye Institute's Rea Hederman Praises Initial Steps in Waiver Process, Says More Needs to be Done**

**Columbus, OH** -- On Friday, the Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Department of Medicaid kicked-off the public comment period for two Medicaid waivers that will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rea S. Hederman Jr., who is executive director of the Economic Research Center at **The Buckeye Institute**, vice president of policy, and a nationally recognized expert on health care policy, and the author of *Returning Health Care Power to the States: The Affordable Care Act's Section 1332 Waiver for State Innovation*, issued the following statement.

"Last week, the state of Ohio took the initial step towards improving health care for Ohioans, ensuring that Medicaid is available to the neediest and is sustainable for future generations.

"In requesting a waiver that will include a work or community engagement requirement for healthy adults, Ohio will bring its Medicaid program in-line with other federal-state welfare programs that **already require beneficiaries to work** or engage in work-related activities. The new waiver signals that healthy adults need to work, volunteer, or attend school in order to receive their Medicaid benefits. This is a good step forward, but more reforms are needed such as cost sharing provisions like premiums, health savings accounts, a limitation on retroactive eligibility, and other tools that prepare and help Medicaid recipients transition to private health care coverage.

"Many of these policies are contained in the Healthy Ohio program that the General Assembly has long sought but was vetoed in the last budget. While the Ohio House of Representatives has overridden that veto, the Senate must still act in order to move the program forward.

"The second waiver follows through on an **idea that was initially developed and championed by The Buckeye Institute**, which is using a 1332 state innovation waiver to exempt Ohio from the individual mandate. This innovation waiver should be easily approved by the federal government, since the current mandate penalty has been eliminated by Congress. Through this waiver, Ohioans will be protected from the individual mandate tax for the next five years, even if Congress reinstates the mandate penalty. Like the Medicaid waiver, this innovation waiver is only one step on the road to a better health care system.

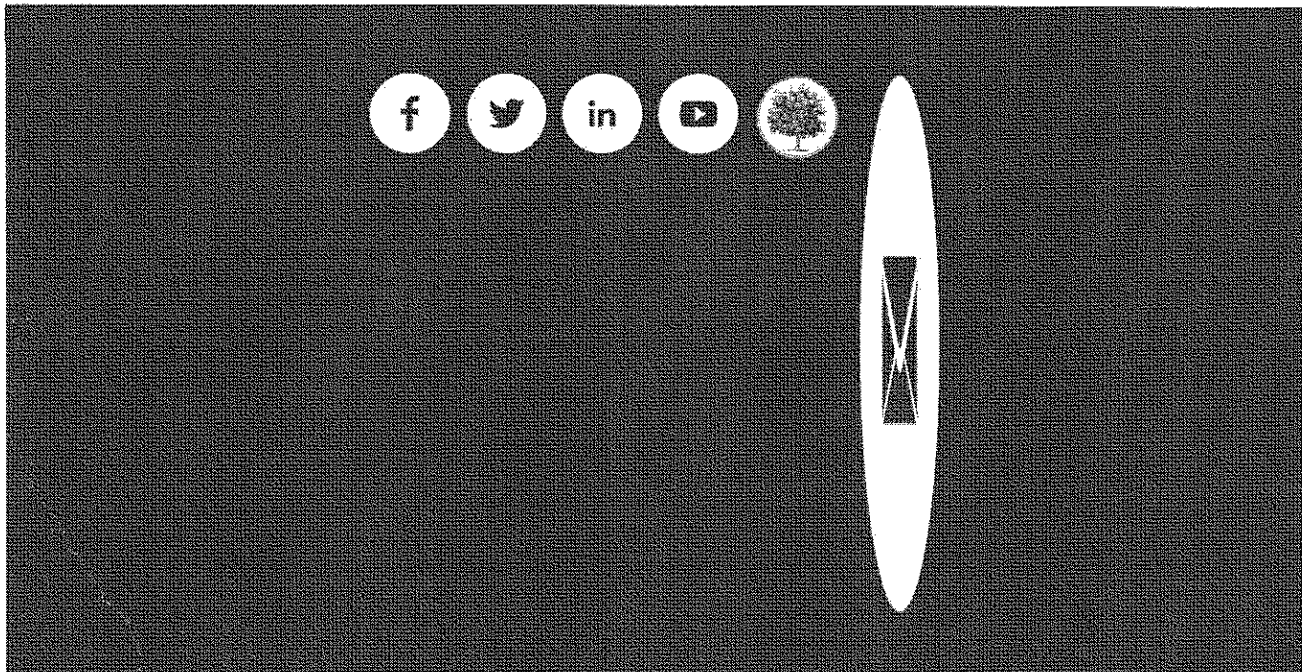
"Over the past year, the Trump Administration has promised flexibility in working with the states, and they have started to deliver. It is smart policy for Ohio to seize this opportunity but more is needed to fix both Medicaid and the insurance markets and ensure they work for Ohioans."

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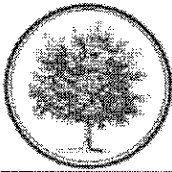
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**Subject:** Montgomery County Provides More Evidence that Ohio Needs Bail Reform, By Daniel J. Dew

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### Montgomery County Provides More Evidence that Ohio Needs Bail Reform

**By Daniel J. Dew**  
**February 21, 2018**

Ohio's cash bail system remains broken. Just ask **Markcus Brown**, the man locked-up for nine days because he did not meet the RTA's dress code and he could not afford bail after his arrest for "trespassing" at the bus station. Mr. Brown's case is another stark reminder that the cash bail status quo does a remarkably poor job of determining which defendants should be released before trial and which should wait in jail.

Aware of the bail system's shortcomings, the Montgomery County Commissioners recently **studied the bail practices** of the county's Court of Common Pleas and its municipal courts. The study found that from 2014 to 2017, defendants in the Montgomery County municipal courts on supervised release appeared for court 20

percent more often than those out on cash bail. Similarly, in the county's Court of Common Pleas, defendants released using cash bail were nearly twice as likely to skip court as those released without any financial conditions, and defendants released with supervision performed comparably to those out on bail.

The Montgomery County study provides more compelling evidence that cash bail has little-if any-real correlation to defendants appearing for their court dates. Instead, the study found that even though bail did not improve court appearance rates, the Court of Common Pleas had an overall appearance rate 26 percent higher due in part to its use of the **Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)**.

The ORAS gives judges additional information about pre-trial defendants, helping them make a more accurate assessment of each defendant's flight-risk and the potential threat that he or she poses to the community. Not surprisingly, after using the ORAS tools, the Montgomery Court of Common Pleas had a nearly 19 percent higher appearance rate for those released on bail, and a 42 percent higher appearance rate for those released on their own recognizance.

Unfortunately, Montgomery County municipal courts do not use risk-assessment tools and must instead rely on the limited information found in the case file or a ham-fisted bail schedule that crudely monetizes each alleged offense. Thus, municipal judges remain at a pre-trial disadvantage-and their communities and defendants continue to suffer for it.

The special interests in favor of preserving cash bail's faulty status quo contend that pre-trial risk-assessment tools are subjective and time-intensive-ignoring the tools used in places like Ohio's own Lucas County, for example, that have achieved better results using fewer than 10 objective data points such as prior failures to appear, convictions for violence, and age.

**Lucas County** courts have achieved remarkable results using the **Public Safety Assessment (PSA)** tool developed by the **Laura and John Arnold Foundation**. Since implementing the nine-factor assessment tool, crime in Lucas County committed by defendants awaiting trial has been cut in half and more defendants show-up for court, even as the number of defendants released without bail has doubled.

Montgomery County's careful study adds to the growing body of scientific evidence that risk-assessment tools work, while the traditional cash bail system does little to ensure a defendant's appearance for trial. The county commissioners were right to take a hard,



honest look at the systems and tools that judges must rely on to decide who poses a flight-risk, who may endanger the community, and who can be trusted to do no harm and return for trial. Cash alone cannot and does not accurately answer these questions.

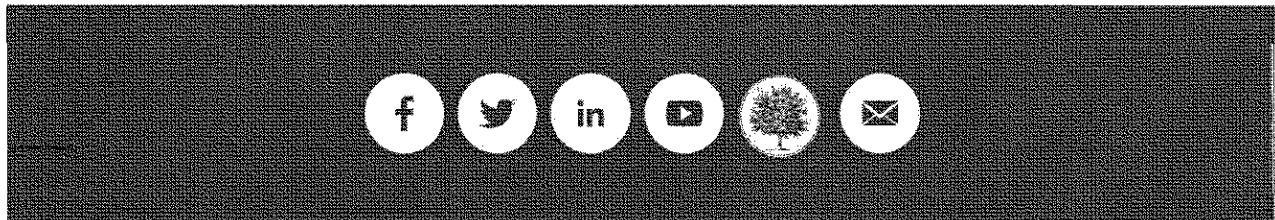
Justice and public safety demand that Ohio and more of our local communities follow the examples of Montgomery and Lucas counties, and begin to give their judges the right kinds of tools for the job.

*Daniel J. Dew is a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center and the author of "Money Bail": Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live.*

###

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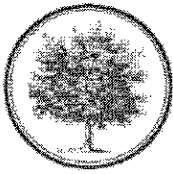
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### **The Buckeye Institute's Greg Lawson: Court Ruling Allows Ohio Small Businesses to Focus on Growing and Creating Jobs**

**Columbus, OH** - Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement regarding Franklin County Judge David Cain's decision to uphold a provision in Ohio's budget that allows the state to collect municipal business-profit taxes from cities, counties, and villages.

"The **decision** by Franklin County Judge David Cain to uphold an Ohio law that allows businesses, that must file tax returns in multiple jurisdictions, to voluntarily consolidate their filings through the state is an important step in reforming our broken tax system.

"The Buckeye Institute, along with national organizations such as the Tax Foundation, have long called for Ohio to fix its byzantine municipal income-tax system, which is one of the most complicated and unfair systems in the nation, and continues to be a significant obstacle to Ohio's economic growth.

"The reform, passed in the most recent **biennial budget**, is a solid step towards fixing our tax code and it is disappointing that many local officials would rather sue the state than repair a system that harms Ohio's small business owners who don't have the money to hire high priced accountants.

"No doubt this won't be the end of the story as appeals will likely be filed. But today, Ohio businesses can breathe a little easier and focus on growing and creating jobs."

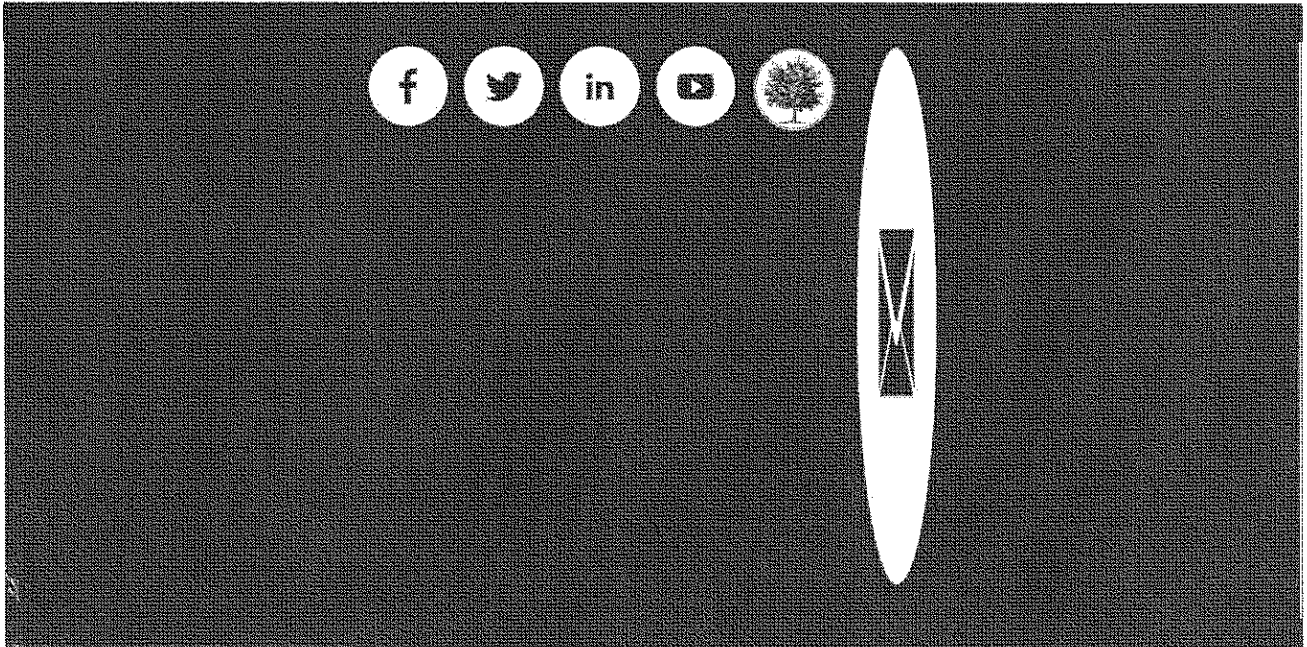
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**From:** Capitol Letter

**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2018 6:16 AM

**To:** Kasych, Shawn

**Subject:** Lawmaker looks to expand Ohio's outdoor drinking law

Friday, Feb. 23, 2018

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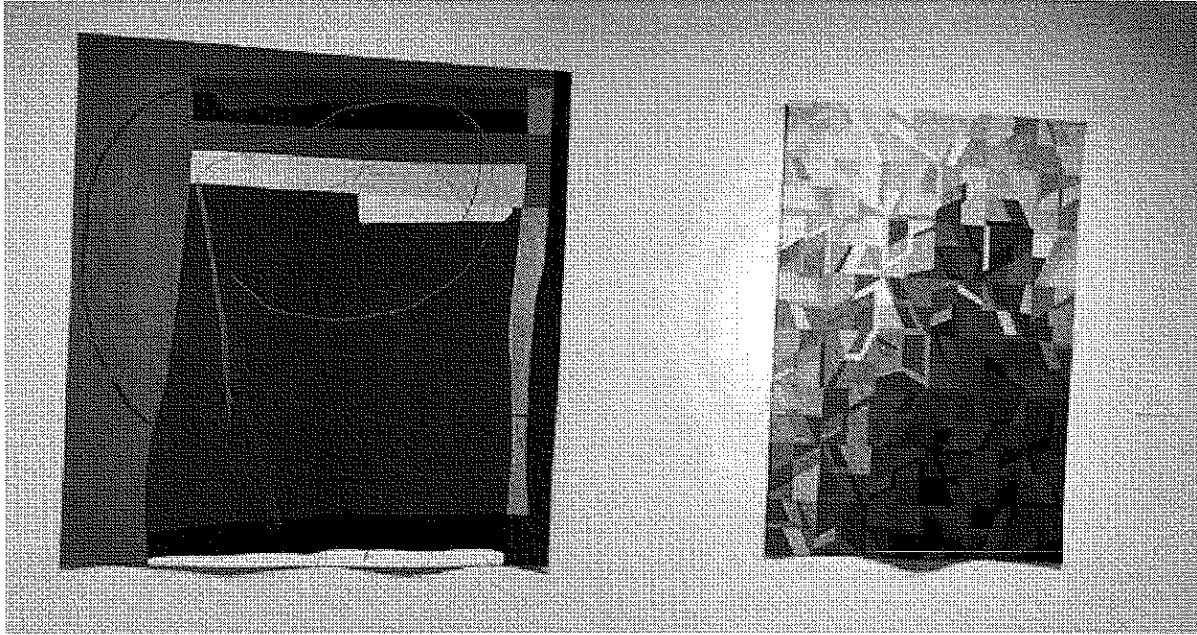
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# Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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Contemporary art quilts hang in the Riffe Gallery from the Quilt National '17 exhibition, a biennial juried competition produced by the Dairy Barn Arts Center in Athens. The exhibition is free. It's across the street from the Statehouse in the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts and continues through April 14. (Laura Hancock, Capitol Letter.)

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## Rotunda Rumblings

= 9 **Booze news:** A new bill from Rep. Laura Lanese seeks to allow temporary outdoor drinking areas in Ohio. In 2015, state legislators passed a law allowing permanent "designated outdoor refreshment areas," but it didn't cover temporary liquor permits, or "CF-permits," used for events such as outdoor festivals. Lanese, a Grove City Republican, told Capitol Letter she doesn't foresee much opposition to House Bill 522, noting that it has the support of the state Division of Liquor Control.

= 9 **Appeal in the works:** The more than 160 cities and villages whose challenge to a centralized state taxing system was denied have ordered their attorneys to appeal the case to a higher court. Capitol Letter reported Thursday that a Franklin County Common Pleas judge rejected the challenge to the Ohio Business Gateway, which allows companies to pay muni taxes to the state instead of each community where they do business.

While businesses argue the new system saves time and money, munis feel it is a violation of home rule. Kent Scarrett of the Ohio Municipal League said the communities don't think the judge considered some of their points and want another shot before a higher court.

= 9 **Name game:** The Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee this week held a second hearing on anti-fraud legislation that would create a system to notify Ohio businesses when someone seeks to open a business under a similar name. Senate Bill 179 would also require limited-liability companies registered in Ohio to maintain an agent in the state and notify the Ohio secretary of state's office when such agents change their address or identity. Sen. Frank LaRose, during sponsor testimony before the committee last fall, said he brought the bill after hearing of an Ohio business' troubles with a fraudulent foreign company that opened under a similar name.

= 9

**Cordray goes on the offensive:** Democrat Richard Cordray's gubernatorial campaign went negative against primary rival Dennis Kucinich for the first time Thursday, releasing an email blasting Kucinich's "long, and bizarre, support of President Trump" and taking him to task for deleting a tweet praising Trump's inauguration speech. While Cordray is still considered the frontrunner in the Democratic primary, the attack shows that Team Corday is concerned enough about Kucinich that they feel the need to go negative. But Cordray spokesman Mike Gwin, who sent out the email, denied that his campaign is worried, writing to Capitol Letter that he's just "not going to pass up an opportunity for a layup."

= 9 **Kucinich gets Berned:** Kucinich's campaign is trying to claim U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders' endorsement by association after he was backed by Our Revolution, Sanders' post-presidential campaign organization. But Sanders, speaking with the Washington Post, pretty explicitly ruled out any direct endorsement of Kucinich. "I've known Dennis Kucinich forever. I consider him a friend," Sanders said. "But I am not making an endorsement there."

= 9 **Lawmakers target school safety:** Following last week's mass shooting at a Florida high school, Ohio lawmakers have been focused more on improving school safety than on tougher gun-control regulations.

Senate President Larry Obhof said earlier this week that he's had preliminary talks with Minority Leader Kenny Yuko about working together to make schools safer – including, he said, increasing funding for safety programs. Already, Democratic Sen. Joe Schiavoni has introduced legislation that would provide grants to school districts to improve their safety measures. In the House, meanwhile, House Education Committee Chair Andrew Brenner announced that legislation will be introduced so his committee can hear testimony from experts about what lawmakers can do to improve school safety. Democratic Sens. Mike Skindell and Charleta Tavares did introduce legislation Tuesday to ban assault weapons and require gun registrations in Ohio, but it's unlikely that their bill will move anywhere fast.

= 9

**Teachers packing heat?** Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, after a Thursday panel discussion at the Conservative Political Action Conference, shared her thoughts on gun control. Don't restrict Second Amendment rights, she said, and instead address mental health issues that cause people to target schools. She also wants to better secure schools, including arming teachers: "I don't have a problem with teachers being armed, and training teachers," she said.

= 9 **Musical chairs:** House Republicans on Thursday announced a number of new committee vice-chairs, including Rep. Darrell Kick (Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security), Rep. Laura Lanese (Civil Justice), Rep. Craig Riedel (Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor), and Rep. Tom Patton (Transportation and Public Safety). Even often-marginalized Rep. John Becker was promoted to vice-chair of the House Federalism and Interstate Relations committee. Rep. Scott Lipps, meanwhile, was named chair of the House Finance Subcommittee on State Government and Agency Review.

= 9 **Freshmen assignments:** The Ohio House's two newest members, GOP Reps. Jim Hoops and Riordan McClain, got their committee assignments Thursday. Hoops, who previously served in the House between 1998 and 2006, was named vice chair of the Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development committee; he also was appointed to the Agriculture and Rural Development, Energy and Natural Resources, and State and Local Government committees. McClain, meanwhile, also scored



a House Ag seat, as well as appointments to the Ways and Means, Higher Education and Workforce Development, and Government Accountability and Oversight committees.

## = 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

= 9 **Under review:** State Sen. Bill Coley wants to put a freeze on final marijuana cultivation licenses while state auditors examine how the applications were reviewed and scored, [cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt reports](#). Concerns about the process have been raised since late last year, and recently, regulators admitted that an unintentional scoring error prevented one company from winning a license.

= 9

**Upheaval:** Jon Heavey, the Rocky River physician who wants to run as a Democrat for governor, says he will challenge the secretary of state's determination that he didn't have enough signatures to qualify for ballot, [cleveland.com's Seth Richardson reports](#). Heavey called the system "rigged."

= 9

**It's settled:** The state and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have resolved a dispute over the dredging of Cleveland Harbor and the Cuyahoga River, [cleveland.com's Eric Heisig writes](#). The agreement settles a federal lawsuit and requires the Army Corps "to bear the cost of placing the sludge from the bottom of the river into containment dikes in 2016 and 2017," Heisig writes.

= 9 **NRA money:** In the wake of the mass shooting at a Florida high school, survivors have accused the NRA of using political donations to block gun control measures. [Cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton looks at](#) how much the NRA has spent supporting and opposing Ohio members of Congress.

= 9

**Welcome back:** [The Columbus Dispatch's Randy Ludlow reveals](#) that the Ohio Casino Control Commission rehired and promoted an employee after he was convicted of dereliction of duty in his previous job as the state's deputy tax director. [Rick Anthony's promotion](#) to deputy executive director of the casino commission boosted his pay 23 percent, to \$100,006 a year.

= 9 **Powerful:** Corry Bliss, who ran Ohio U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's 2016 campaign and many others, was named one of GQ's "50 Most Powerful People in Trump's Washington." Bliss, as head of the Congressional Leadership Fund, "has a huge job: saving the GOP's House majority in 2018," GQ notes.

## = A **Five Questions**

= 9 Connie Gadell-Newton is an attorney and social justice activist running for governor in the Green Party. She has lived in Columbus nearly her entire life and received an undergraduate degree from Ohio State University and a law degree from Penn State. She's been involved in food access and community gardens and the anti-rape and anti-violence event Take Back the Night, among other issues.

= 9

1. *Are you campaigning around the state?*

= 9 "Yes, I am. We've been going to Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, meeting with local grassroots citizens' groups. We've been working on coalition building with issue groups, like anti-fracking groups? 6 since summer of last year."

= 9 2. *Are you fundraising or are you self-funding? How do you pay for travel?*

= 9

"My step-mom gave me an old Jeep, so I've been driving the Jeep around. We've raised some money for basic expenses, but it really is a campaign on a shoestring."

= 9 3. *The Green Party was an early supporter of legalized marijuana. Do you feel like Bill O'Neill has co-opted this issue?*

= 9

"It seems like Bill O'Neill is kind of a one-issue candidate. That is an important issue to us. But I'm definitely not a one-issue candidate. We also care about the environment... We are advocating to end privatized prisons in Ohio... And universal health care is something we're advocating for."

= 9

4. *In addition to universal health care, your website says you want to ban*

*assault rifles and advance other progressive ideas. How will you implement these, considering the legislature will likely remain in Republican control?*

= 9

"I'm definitely willing to work with people to look for solutions that will work for everybody in our society... And I know that there are certain things where not everybody's going to agree, but I think we can look for areas of common ground. So we want to also have universal health care, which I think helps with some of the mental health issues that people talk about related to the gun problem."

= 9

*5. You said you enjoy vegetarian and vegan cuisine in Columbus. What restaurants do you recommend?*

= 9 "I live in Olde Towne East, which is just east of downtown Columbus. In my neighborhood there are a couple of really good restaurants. The Angry Baker -- they bake their own bread and they have vegan and vegetarian options. And Yellow Brick Pizza is an independently owned pizza restaurant, and they have a great menu of craft beer and they also have vegan options for pizza, so you can get vegan cheese."

= 9

## **What's Going On**

= 9 **Friday 8 a.m. = 2 Bureau of Workers' Compensation board of directors meeting.** *Room 3, Level 2, William Green Building, 30 W. Spring St.*

= 9 **Friday 11 a.m. – Med marijuana lawsuit update:** Jimmy Gould, CEO of CannAscend Ohio, along with attorneys and others, will hold a press conference to discuss the latest with the marijuana cultivation license lawsuit against the state. *Columbus Athenaeum, Corinthian Room, 32 N. Fourth St.*

= 9 **Friday 11:40 a.m. – Welsh flag raising:** The Welsh Society of Central Ohio plans to raise the Welsh flag in a ceremony that includes singing the national anthems of Wales and the United States. *West Plaza, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **Friday 1:30 p.m. – Attorney General Mike DeWine to make**

**announcement about rape-kit testing.** *Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, 1560 State Route 56 SW, London.*

= 9

**Friday 3 p.m. – Rich Cordray at Owens Community College:** The Democratic gubernatorial candidate will tour the school and meet with administrators. *Owens Community College, Center for Emergency Preparedness, 30140 Tracy Road, Walbridge.*

= 9 **Friday 4 p.m. – U.S. Sen. Rob Portman to visit Zanesville auto-parts store:** The stop is part of the Cincinnati-area Republican's ongoing tour to promote the recently passed GOP tax-reform plan. *GKM Auto Parts, 32 8th St., Zanesville.*

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**Saturday 10 a.m. to noon – Donuts with Rep. Dave Greenspan:** The Westlake Republican plans to meet with constituents to field their general questions and comments. *Westlake Porter Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake.*

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**Saturday Noon – Working People's Day of Action rally:** Labor union members and supporters are set to hold a rally in Columbus (as well as other cities) ahead of the U.S. Supreme Court oral arguments in a case over public-sector union fees. West Plaza, Ohio Statehouse (Event will move to the Statehouse Rotunda in case of bad weather).

= 9 **Saturday 7 to 10 p.m. – Alpha Phi Red Dress gala:** Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Alpha Phi Foundation for women's heart health research and awareness. *Atrium/Rotunda, Ohio Statehouse.*

= 9 **Sunday 2:30 p.m. – Democratic statewide candidates town hall:** Scheduled attendees include gubernatorial candidates Joe Schiavoni, Richard Cordray, Bill O'Neill, and Dennis Kucinich; secretary of state candidate Kathleen Clyde; state auditor candidate Zack Space; and Ohio Supreme Court candidates Michael Donnelly and Melody Stewart. *Union County Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 233 W. 6th St., Marysville.*

= A **Birthdays**

= 9 Friday:

Rep. Ryan Smith

= 9

Saturday:

= 9 Quinn Beeson, Buckeye Institute economic research analyst

Wilson Shannon, Ohio's 14th and 16th governor (1802-1877)

= A **Straight From The Source**

= 9

"Doping in curling. Really?! Russians are masters of cartoonish villainy.

#ThemRussians"

= 9-Ohio Rep. Mike Duffey, responding on Twitter to a New York Times story about a Russian curling athlete under investigation at the Winter Olympics for allegedly using a banned substance.

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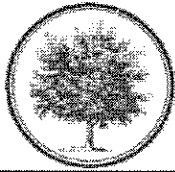
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**From:** The Buckeye Institute  
**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2018 3:39 PM  
**To:** Kasych, Shawn  
**Subject:** ICYMI: Buckeye's Robert Alt Sat Down with IdeaStream's Ashton Marra to Discuss Janus v. AFSCME

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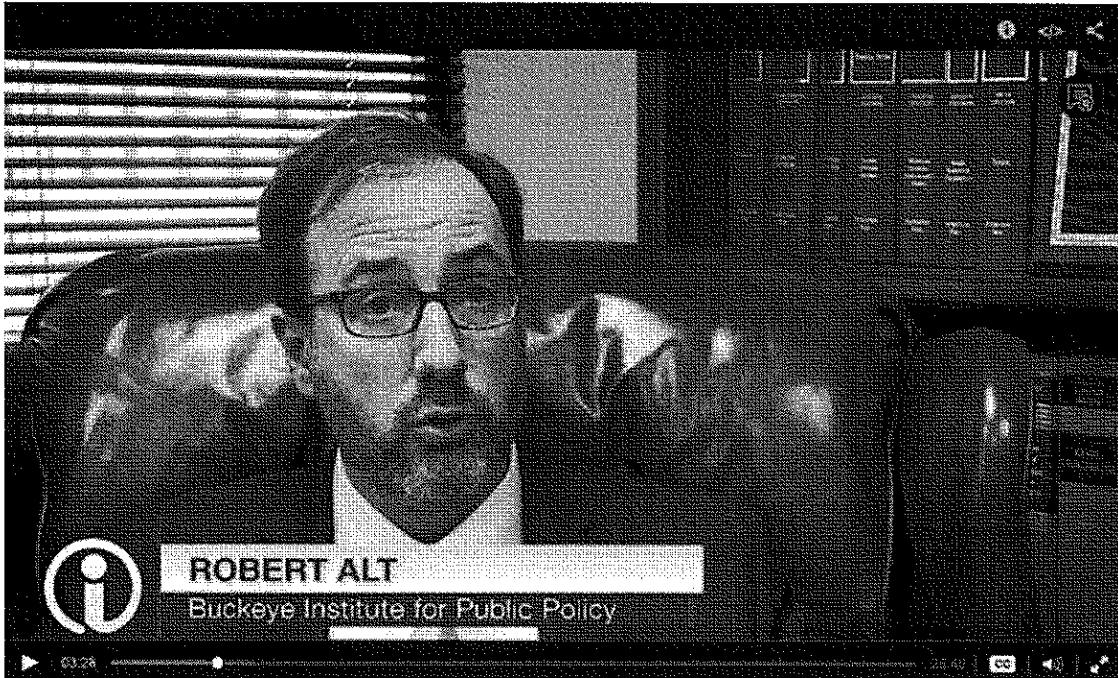
**Buckeye's Robert Alt Sat Down with IdeaStream's  
Ashton Marra to Discuss Janus v. AFSCME  
= A**

The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO Robert Alt, talked to **IdeaStream's** Ashton Marra about *Janus v. AFSCME* and the impact it could have on protecting the First Amendment rights of Ohio's public employees.

In the interview, Alt said in regards to public employees being forced to pay agency fees, "You don't have a choice then on how it is that the unions use that money in terms of speech, what they advocate for. That's really the core of this case."

Read and listen to the radio piece at: <http://bit.ly/2EMIE8e>.

Watch the television piece at: <http://bit.ly/2CGI1XH> (Segment runs from :56-6:27).



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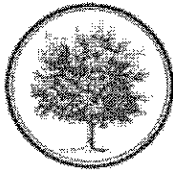
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(614) 224-3255 or [Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org](mailto:Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 24, 2018

### **The Buckeye Institute's Robert Alt: Unions Should Rally Behind the First Amendment Rights of All Public Employees**

**Columbus, OH --** Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement regarding the Working People's Day of Action rally in Columbus, Ohio.

"Today we witnessed the First Amendment in action. Individuals who support unions joined together at a rally to freely express their opinions. But what if instead of rallying and voicing their own opinions, they were forced to pay for the speech of those who oppose unions or else they would be fired? That would be unfair, not to mention violate the First Amendment. Mark Janus and public employees in many states including Ohio face exactly that kind of predicament.

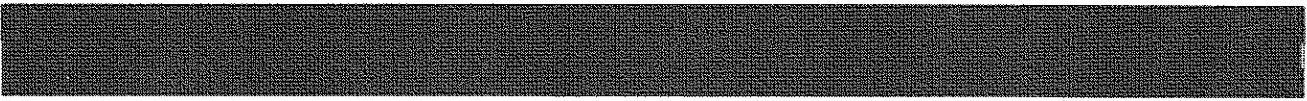
"On Monday, we will once again watch the robust protections of our constitutional system in action as Mr. Janus' case is heard before the Supreme Court of the United States. If Mr. Janus prevails, public employees will no longer be forced to pay for political speech with which they disagree, thus ending the violation of their First Amendment rights.

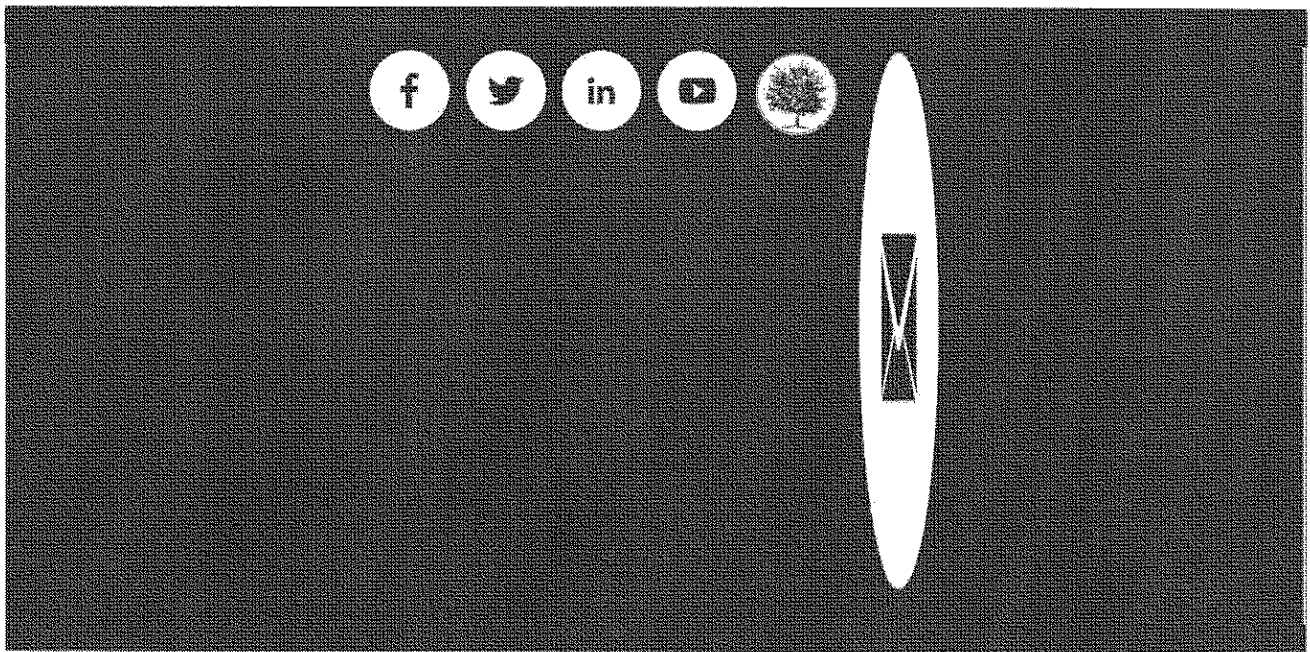
"While some claim *Janus v. AFSCME* is an attempt to weaken unions, The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief demonstrating that unions can still **thrive without compulsory dues**. What will change if Mr. Janus prevails is that our hard-working public servants, even those who disagree with the unions, will have their First Amendment rights protected and respected. And that is something all of us should rally behind."

###

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**Subject:** New Senate bill would expand billing options for Ohio pharmacists

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# Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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